



Prevention Research Center

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

2022 VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 25TH | 1:00 PM-5:00 PM
OCTOBER 26TH | 8:30 AM-1:00 PM

Land Acknowledgement

The University of Wisconsin–Madison Prevention Research Center recognizes the land the center occupies is the ancestral home of the Ho–Chunk Nation, who have called this land Teejop (day–JOPE) since time immemorial.

In the first treaty following the Indian Removal Act in 1830, the state government forcibly removed the Ho–Chunk from their home in 1832. In the decades that followed, the federal and state government sought to completely remove the Ho–Chunk from Wisconsin. Despite these attempts, many Ho–Chunk people continued to return to their home in present-day Wisconsin.

We acknowledge the circumstances that led to the forced removal of the Ho–Chunk people, and honor their history of resistance and resilience. The Ho–Chunk Nation and the other eleven First Nations residing in the boundaries of present-day Wisconsin remain vibrant and strong.

We recognize and respect the inherent sovereignty of the twelve First Nations that reside in the boundaries of the state of Wisconsin. This history of colonization informs our work and vision for a collaborative future. We encourage you to visit their web sites for more information.

Tribal Nations of Wisconsin

[Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](#)

[Forest County Potawatomi](#)

[Ho–Chunk Nation](#)

[Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](#)

[Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](#)

[Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin](#)

[Oneida Nation](#)

[Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](#)

[Mole Lake \(Sokaogon Chippewa Community\) Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](#)

[Saint Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin](#)

[Stockbridge–Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians](#)

[Brothertown Indian Nation](#)

Middle Passage Acknowledgement

The University of Wisconsin–Madison Prevention Research Center recognizes the forced migration and enslavement of African people.

Between the 16th and 19th centuries people in Africa were forcibly removed from their homes, enslaved, and trafficked via the Middle Passage. We remember those who did not survive the Middle Passage and those whose labor was exploited for generations in the establishment of the current economy.

We acknowledge the physical, mental, financial, and spiritual effects that continue to be inherited by Black people today, including generational traumas and systemic racism. Additionally, we recognize our work comes from an institution that has been built from the exploited labor of Black people.

We recognize and respect the resilience of the previous and current generations fighting for freedom and against injustices. The history of the Middle Passage informs our work and vision for a collaborative future. Below are some resources to help overcome the racial injustices in maternal and child health and build a more equitable future.

Black Maternal and Child Health Resources

[Black Mamas Matter Alliance](#)

[Sister Song](#)

[The Foundation For Black Women's Wellness](#)

[Healing Our Hearts](#)

[Shades of You Shades of Me](#)

[Black Women's Health Imperative](#)

[National Birth Equity Collaborative](#)

[NAACP](#)

[Harambee Doula Village](#)

Keynotes



**Monica R. McLemore,
PhD, MPH, RN**

Dr. Monica R. McLemore is a tenured professor in the Child, Family, and Population Health Department at the University of Washington School of Nursing. Prior to her arrival at UW, she was a tenured associate professor at the University of California, San Francisco and was named the Thelma Shobe Endowed Chair in 2021. She retired from clinical practice as a public health and staff nurse after a 28-year clinical nursing career in 2019, however, continues to provide flu and COVID-19 vaccines.

Her program of research is focused on understanding reproductive health and justice. To date, she has 93 peer reviewed articles, OpEds and commentaries and her research has been cited in the Huffington Post, Lavender Health, five amicus briefs to the Supreme Court of the United States, and three National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine reports, and a data visualization project entitled How To Fix Maternal Mortality: The first step is to stop blaming women that was published in the 2019 Future of Medicine edition of Scientific American.

Her work has also appeared in publications such as Dame Magazine, Politico, ProPublica/NPR and she made a voice appearance in Terrance Nance's HBO series Random Acts of Flyness. She is the recipient of numerous awards and currently serves as chair for Sexual and Reproductive Health section of the American Public Health Association. She was inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing in 2019. She became the Editor in Chief of Health Equity Journal in 2022.



Evelyn Cruz

Evelyn Cruz is currently the Director for Program Planning and Evaluation at Centro Hispano, Inc. where she provides leadership for Esperanza: Nuestra Cultura de Salud, a community and academic partnership funded by the Wisconsin Partnership Program to promote equity for Latine mental wellbeing and wellness. The Esperanza work is grounded on healing ethno and racial trauma (HEART) and radical healing models. Evelyn is a co-facilitator for the statewide Centering Voices of Those Most Impacted, a workgroup for public health

equity priority in the Wisconsin Healthiest State Initiative. She's also a preceptor in the Wisconsin Population Health Service Fellowship Program.

Evelyn has over 20 years of program development and implementation focused on improving the health of racial and ethnic minority populations in Wisconsin. She has provided direction and leadership in the design, implementation and evaluation of strategies that build capacity for equity through cultural and linguistic access, diversity, inclusion, community engagement, monitoring and technical support. Evelyn's volunteer work include member for Board of Health for Madison Dane County Public Health Department; the City of Sun Prairie Safety Committee, Board Member for Literacy Network and Malawi Women's Health.

Evelyn's career and volunteer work have centered on promoting systems change, accessibility, inclusion that lead towards health equity.

Day 1 Schedule

Welcome | 1:00-1:15 PM

Keynote | 1:15-2:15 PM

Retrofit, Reform and Reimagine to Achieve Health Equity

Monica R. McLemore PhD, MPH, RN

Break | 2:15-2:20 PM

Panel | 2:20-3:20 PM

Navigating Mental Health Needs of Students in the School Setting

Andy Garbacz, PhD, Bri Collins & Monicka Whitehead

The purpose of this session is to describe ways to promote equity in school mental health through strengthening partnerships with families and communities.

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will learn about school mental health practices.
 2. Participants will learn strategies to promote equity.
 3. Participants will learn approaches to build and strengthen partnerships with families.
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Break | 3:20-3:25 PM

Breakout Room Sessions | 3:25-4:25 PM

Room 1:

Unique Health Issues in Rural Wisconsin: The Social Determinants that Impact the Health of Tribal and Rural Populations

Candi Cornelius¹, MSN, RN, CLC, Corina Norrbom, MD, Walter J. Orzechowski¹, MSPH, MBA, BS & Chris Frakes, M. Div, PhD

During this session, we will hear from a panel of health professionals and advocates working with various communities in rural Wisconsin such as Hmong and Spanish-speaking immigrants and tribal communities. Discussion topics will range from behavioral health, family health, and social determinants of health unique to rural populations.

Learning Objectives:

1. Have a better understanding of social determinants of health in rural communities across Wisconsin.
2. Recognizing a broader range of communities living in rural areas in Wisconsin, including immigrant populations and tribal communities.
3. Learn about specific public health topics as they manifest in rural settings and the unique challenges of addressing those therein.

Room 2:

Basic Income as a Tool for Community Health

Katherine Magnuson, PhD & Blake Roberts Crall

This session will provide an overview of current research in the field of basic cash income assistance as a tool for economic stability, health, and wellness. The speakers will also provide details on the city of Madison's new guaranteed income pilot, the Madison Forward Fund, which launched in September 2022 in partnership with UW Madison's Institute for Research on

Poverty. Participants will learn about best practices for designing and implementing guaranteed income programs, strategies to help mitigate the cliff effect for public benefits, and hear from program staff on their experiences working with program recipients.

Room 3:

Why Fathers Matter: Where Do Fathers Fit in Prevention Research to Improve the Health of Low-Income Women, Infants and Families?

Brooks Griffin¹, Tova Walsh, PhD, MSW & Alvin Thomas, PhD

The presence of a caring, involved father is associated with positive developmental outcomes for children, beginning in the prenatal years and extending across the life course. This session will feature discussion among fathers, researchers, and practitioners. Topics to be explored include the role of fathers in pregnancy and early childhood; barriers that fathers may face to full participation in their children's lives; strategies for engaging fathers in child and family services; and fatherhood in the context of rural and urban communities.

Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. Understand the strengths and challenges of being a father.
2. Recognize how a father's positive involvement can influence maternal and infant health and young children's development.
3. Identify strategies to create a welcoming environment for fathers and help strengthen father-child relationships.

Room 4:

Abortion Access, Population Health, and Reproductive Justice in Wisconsin after the Supreme Court's Dobbs Decision

Jenny Higgins, PhD, MPH & Zakiyyah Sorenson, RN, BSN

In this session, Jenny Higgins and Zakiyyah Sorensen from UW CORE (core.wisc.edu) will present information about the impacts of Roe v Wade's reversal on Wisconsinites, then contextualize abortion access into a broader reproductive justice perspective. Attendees will have ample time to pose questions. At the end of the session, attendees should be able to:

1. Identify recent changes to abortion access in Wisconsin and bordering states, as well as the likely impacts of these changes on people's health and wellbeing.
 2. Be familiar with how abortion fits into a broader framework of reproductive justice (RJ), and consider how an RJ perspective is critical to any efforts to improve Wisconsinites' reproductive lives.
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Closing | 4:25-4:30 PM

¹Community Advisory Board (CAB) member

Day 2 Schedule

Welcome | 8:30-8:40 AM

Keynote | 8:40-9:40 AM

Grieving to Heal from Oppression: Integrating my Spiritual and Professional Life

Evelyn Cruz¹

Break | 9:40-9:45 AM

Community Engaged Research: From Words to Action | 9:45-10:05 AM

Brooks Griffin¹, Fiona Weeks¹ & Janice Valenzuela

In this session we will discuss the concept of community engaged research, what community engaged research means to the work of the UWPRC, and examine how these ideas are operationalized through the work of the UW Prevention Research Center (PRC) Community Advisory Board.

Learning Objectives:

1. Review the concept of community engaged research generally, as well as its importance to the work of the UWPRC.
 2. Examine the workings of the Community Advisory Board (CAB) and how the PRC and CAB work together.
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Breakout Rooms | 10:05-10:50 AM

Room 1:

The Impact of Pregnancy Accommodation Laws on Employment and Infant Health

Jessica Pac, PhD & Alejandra Ros Pilarz, PhD

In the absence of a federal law requiring employers to provide reasonable workplace accommodations to pregnant women in the United States, 31 states passed their own pregnancy accommodation laws since 1990 that substantially expand protections beyond the 1978 Pregnancy Discrimination Act. As the loss of employment and income can be detrimental during pregnancy, a central question is whether pregnancy accommodation laws impact maternal employment and infant health, strong predictors for adulthood health and human capital. In this presentation, we will discuss the implications behind the proposed Pregnant Workers Fairness Act passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2021, and the laws potential impacts on employment during pregnancy and infant health.

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe pregnancy accommodation laws and their role in the larger context public policies that affect working during pregnancy.
2. Demonstrate the importance of pregnancy accommodation laws in terms of employment among expecting mothers and infant health.

Room 2:

Adapting a Compassion-Based Mindfulness Program to be Culturally Responsive for Educators and Families with Community-Based Participatory Methods

Holly Hatton-Bowers, PhD & Tuyen Huynh, PhD, MS

This presentation will discuss the opportunities and barriers of adapting a compassion mindfulness-based program in culturally responsive ways using a community-based participatory approach. Findings from bi-lingual Spanish speaking educators and educators from Brazil will be shared as well as initial feedback from minoritized families regarding their participation in the CHIME+ Program.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand some ways to engage in a community-based participatory methods for adapting a mindfulness program.
2. Discuss the opportunities and barriers of adapting mindfulness programs to be culturally responsive.

Room 3:

Engaging Youth, Parents, and Pharmacists in the Design of MedSMART Families: A Game-based Approach to Improving Opioid Safety

Olufunmilola Abraham, PhD, MS, Bpharm

This presentation will highlight the methodological approach for engaging youth, parents and pharmacists in designing MedSMART Families, a novel family-based intervention that utilizes a game-based participatory approach to facilitate parent-teen communication about medication safety in the homes, schools, and other relevant community settings where medication misuse might occur. In this session, Dr. Abraham will highlight how the MedSMART Families intervention incorporates the co-creation of a personalized family medication safety plan by parents and their teens to proactively foster family conversations about safe and responsible management of medications.

Room 4:

Centering Community Voices of Parents and Caregivers of Children 0–11 years old in Wisconsin through Community-led Conversations to Support Health, Wellness, and Well-being for Children and Families

Amy Meinen, MPH, RDN

In an effort to hear directly from parents and caregivers of young children and with funding from UW–Madison’s Prevention Research Center, the UW–Madison School of Human Ecology has partnered with Healthy Early and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services’ Maternal and Child Health Program to support community conversations in the Latino community. This project follows a community-driven approach and as a result these conversations are led and facilitated by Latino community leaders from different regions in Wisconsin. The current project will engage with immigrant Latino/a parents and care takers from Green Bay, Milwaukee, Madison, and Racine, as well as with US Latino/a parents in order to also address generational differences.

Learning Objectives:

1. To learn about a community-driven approach and process to engage and empower communities of color.
2. To learn about how community conversations inform policy, systems, and environmental change strategies impacting child health and well-being.

Room 5:

“She told me no, that you cannot change”: Understanding Provider Refusal to Remove Contraceptive Implants

Leigh Senderowicz, ScD, MPH

This presentation will use data from 17 focus group discussions

with women of reproductive age in an anonymized African setting to understand how users approach providers to request method removal, and how they understand whether or not such a request will be granted. By the end of the presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Understand how medical misogyny and scientific racism shape access to contraceptive method discontinuation in this setting.
2. Describe the gendered nature of contraceptive coercion.

Break | 10:50-10:55 AM

Managing the Psychology of Change: Embedding Equity and Inclusion in a CQI System | 10:55-11:55 AM

Abigail Eskenazi, MPP, BA & Sharon Gilbert¹, BS

This session will provide information on how Wisconsin's Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program began embedding inclusion and equity into its CQI system, including specific publicly available resources that supported this effort. In order for this type of organizational change to be effective, the people within the organization (CQI teams) need to embrace it. Embedding equity and inclusion into a CQI system is an example of an organizational change and this session will provide specific strategies to support CQI leaders in managing situations where there is hesitance. Attendees will also have an opportunity to engage with their peers on how to manage hesitation or challenges embedding equity and inclusion in CQI systems and will have the opportunity to steal shamelessly from each other.

Goal 1: To provide attendees with specific strategies and resources to embed equity and inclusion into their CQI system.

- Objective: Attendees will learn specific strategies to embed equity and inclusion into their CQI system.
- Objective: Attendees will access publicly available resources to embed equity and inclusion into their CQI system.

Goal 2: To discuss strategies to manage the psychology of change when met with hesitation on embedding equity and inclusion.

- Objective: Attendees will engage with their peers to discuss effective strategies for managing the psychology of change when a CQI system moves toward embedding equity and inclusion.

UWPRC Core Research Project Update | 11:55 AM-12:55 PM

Kathleen Hipke, PhD, Roseanne Clark, PhD, Jane Mahoney, MD, Franchesca Vasquez, APSW & Shelby Beeker-Belanger, BA

A brief recap will be provided on the Core Research Project. Adoption, implementation, and reach of the Core Research Project will be discussed. Time will be available to ask questions.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify strategies for task sharing to increase access to mental health services for women living in poverty.
 2. Identify strategies to support sustainability of the Mother Infant Therapy Group program as part of home visiting programs.
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Closing | 4:25-4:30 PM

¹Community Advisory Board (CAB) member

Presenters

Abigail Eskenazi, MPP, BA

Abigail (Abby) Eskenazi, MPP is the Home Visiting Quality Improvement Coordinator at the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF). Abby has engaged in the planning and implementation of home visiting continuous quality improvement (CQI) projects for over four years, focused on several topics including infant safe sleep, child development, and family engagement. Abby is trained as an Improvement Advisor through the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Breakthrough Series Collaborative. Prior to working at DCF, Abby managed a Head Start financial capability program and completed her master's in public policy, with a focus on program evaluation, advanced statistics, and survey design in early childhood policy. In her spare time, Abby enjoys hiking, baking, and snuggling with her orange tabby cat, Gus.

Alejandra Ros Pilarz, PhD

Alejandra Ros Pilarz is an Assistant Professor at the Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Dr. Pilarz's research examines how parental employment and children's early care and education experiences matter for child development and family wellbeing, and the role of public policies in supporting parents and their children's development.

Alvin Thomas, PhD

Dr. Alvin Thomas is a Phyllis Northway Faculty Fellow and clinically trained assistant professor of Human Development and Family Studies in the School of Human Ecology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he explores positive youth development and father involvement especially among Black families.

Amy Meinen, MPH, RDN

Amy Meinen, MPH, RDN, is a registered dietitian with formal training in public health and public health nutrition. She has spent the past 22 years working in the public health prevention field, which has included working with a Wisconsin Tribal Nation, with several Wisconsin communities, and for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Amy has experience in treating overweight and obesity in children and adolescents. Additionally, she has extensive experience in designing, implementing, and evaluating public health interventions to prevent obesity through healthy community-based approaches. This includes working on strategies related to food systems, early childhood, school, and community settings. Over the past ten years, Amy has been a part of helping to build the healthTIDE Network that encompasses multi-sectorial partnerships to support healthier communities and people. The network currently has over 3,000 partners from around Wisconsin. Amy believes in focusing on cross-sector partnerships and collective action to create policy, environment and system changes that support health and well-being.

Andy Garbacz, PhD

Andy Garbacz is an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. His work focuses on family–school–community partnerships and cultural responsiveness within a school mental health framework.

Blake Roberts Crall

Blake is the Program Manager for Madison’s guaranteed income research program, the Madison Forward Fund. She has over a decade of experience designing, implementing and evaluating economic justice, labor, workforce and social welfare programs. She has a M.A. in Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, and a M.S. in Food Policy and Applied Nutrition with a concentration in food security and social welfare from Tufts University.

Bri Collins

Bri Collins is a doctoral student in the School Psychology program at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Her work emphasizes equitable policies and practices for marginalized youth and families in schools

Brooks Griffin

Brooks Griffin is a Motivational Speaker, Father Advocate & Corporate Social Responsibility Coordinator with the 2021 NBA Champion Milwaukee Bucks. In his role, Brooks coordinates a team dedicated to addressing racial injustice and social inequities in the state of Wisconsin, especially as they impact Black and Brown communities. Brooks uses his experiences, learned lessons, and evidence-informed approaches to rejuvenate his audiences to experience their fullest significance, potential and purpose. As the President of The INSPIRED Network, Brooks delivers empowering keynotes, workshops, and training on youth success, overcoming adversity and mental health awareness. He has delivered hundreds of presentations and has inspired over 10,000 young leaders in Wisconsin and across the world. While engaging with young leaders and inspiring students, families, and professionals, he enjoys spending his time traveling with his two beautiful daughters, Harmonee & Brylee. That's right! He's a #GirlDad!

Candi Cornelius, MSN, RN, CLC

Candi Cornelius is from the Oneida and Menominee Nations of Wisconsin. She has lived on the Oneida reservation all her life with her three daughters. Candi received her Bachelor's in Nursing from UW-Eau Claire and her Masters in Nursing from Bellin College. Candi has been working for the Oneida Community Health Center as the Prenatal Care Coordinator for over ten years. Her role is to ensure all local Native American pregnant women have access to medical, emotional, social, educational and any other needed services during pregnancy.

Candi is there to guide, support and educate expecting parents to improve birth outcomes. Candi also sought out to become a Certified Lactation Counselor to provide the best education and support to nursing mothers in the community.

Chris Frakes, M. Div, PhD

Chris earned a Masters of Divinity in 1994 with the intention of serving rural communities, aware of both the stigma associated with seeking mental and behavioral health services and the scarcity of mental and behavioral health resources available in smaller, rural communities. She went on to complete a PhD in 2004, focusing her work in ethics and practices that center the wellbeing of the most vulnerable. Chris has worked with Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program since 2019. She started the Farm Well WI program, which focuses on improving the mental health and wellbeing of farmers, farmworkers and their families before becoming the Community Wellness Group Director. In her current role she supervises all the mental and behavioral health programs SWCAP offers, including Farm Well WI, the Southwestern Wisconsin Behavioral Health Partnership, and Opportunity House (a recovery residence).

Franchesca Vasquez, APSW

Franchesca Vasquez, APSW is a Community Mental Health Partner with the UWPRC Core Research Project. Franchesca serves as a Parent Navigator for Foundations Health & Wholeness.

Candi is there to guide, support and educate expecting parents to improve birth outcomes. Candi also sought out to become a Certified Lactation Counselor to provide the best education and support to nursing mothers in the community.

Holly Hatton-Bowers, PhD

Dr. Holly Hatton-Bowers, PhD, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is an associate professor in child, youth, and family studies at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and an Early Childhood Extension Specialist. Her primary interests and scholarly activity include co-creating and implementing programs that aim to enhance the quality of early childhood development and care, with a particular focus on mental health, emotional well-being and social-emotional development. These programs include the use of strategies that cultivate reflective practice, social-emotional learning, resilience, mindfulness, and compassion among caregivers, helping professionals and families. She is committed to addressing issues of systemic inequities in early care and education and brings these issues to the forefront of her work. Currently, she is a Principal Investigator for an Administration Children and Families Head Start University Partnership Grant aiming to research the implementation of the Nebraska Extension Cultivating Healthy Intentional Mindful Educators program (CHIME) in Early Head Start and Head Start child care settings using community-based participatory methods.

Jane Mahoney, MD

Jane Mahoney, MD is the UWPRC Associate Director of Translation and Core Research Project Multiple Principal Investigator. She is a Professor in the Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology within the Department of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Mahoney leads the UWPRC Translational Partners Panel (TPP) and provides consultation to investigators of UWPRC research projects regarding design for dissemination, navigation to implementation science and dissemination resources, and connections to translation, policy, and institutionalization stakeholders. She is the Director of the UW Community–Academic Aging Resource Network, in which she facilitates formation of research partnerships involving UW investigators and community–based social service agencies to improve the health of Wisconsin’s older adults. She also serves as the Associate Director for Implementation Science for the CTSA–funded UW Institute for Clinical & Translational Research (ICTR) – Community–Academic Partnerships (CAP) core. In this role, she has developed the Dissemination and Implementation Launchpad, which provides training and consultation for faculty and researchers in dissemination and implementation (D&I) science; and funding, business, and marketing resources to support translation of evidence into practice.

Janice Valenzuela

Janice Valenzuela is the Engagement & Translation Specialist with the University of Wisconsin–Madison Prevention Research Center. Prior to joining the Center, Janice was the Outreach Coordinator for the Minority Health Program at the Department of Health Services, where she worked to engage statewide partners addressing health disparities and equity issues across

Wisconsin. Her relevant experiences include coordinating the activities of the Minority Health Advisory Committee and providing support to Minority Health Program grantees. Some of her interests include culturally responsive evaluation; interdisciplinary collaboration, and network analysis/network weaving; all in an effort to advance health equity.

Jenny Higgins, PhD, MPH

Jenny Higgins is the director of UW CORE, an interdisciplinary research initiative at University of Wisconsin–Madison that focuses on abortion, contraception, and other aspects of reproductive autonomy in Wisconsin and beyond. She is a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

Jessica Pac, PhD

Jessica Pac is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Jessica's work is motivated by the notion that inequalities in infancy drive adulthood disparities. Jessica's research broadly harnesses applied econometric and data science methods to provide novel insight on mandatory reporting behaviors and the effects of antipoverty and work–family policy supports on maternal employment, safety, and health, and infant and child safety and health. Jessica holds an MPA with a concentration in Social Policy from Cornell University and a PhD with concentrations in Economics and Social Policy at Columbia University School of Social Work.

Katherine Magnuson, PhD

Katherine Magnuson is the Director of the Institute for Research on Poverty and Professor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Social Work. Her research focuses social policies to improve the well-being and development families and children from economically disadvantaged communities.

Kathleen Hipke, PhD

Kathleen Hipke, PhD, is the Director of the UWPRC Core Research Project. Dr. Hipke is a licensed clinical psychologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Medicine and Public Health. She has professional roots in prevention science and extensive experience in the treatment of and professional training related to perinatal, infant and early childhood mental health.

Leigh Senderowicz, ScD, MPH

Leigh Senderowicz is an Assistant Professor of Gender and Health at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She earned her doctorate from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in the department of Global Health and Population, and recently completed a postdoc in the Health Disparities Research Scholars Program. Leigh's mixed methods research focuses on reproductive autonomy, exploring the ways that new approaches to measurement and evaluation can promote person-centered care, health equity and reproductive freedom.

Monicka Whitehead

Monicka Whitehead is a professional fundraiser for United Way of Dane County. She focuses her work on helping the community thrive to be a better place for the youth.

Olufunmilola Abraham, PhD, MS, Bpharm

Dr. Olufunmilola Abraham is an Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison (UW) School of Pharmacy, Social and Administrative Sciences Division. She is a NIH/UW Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR) KL2 Scholar. Dr. Abraham has over a decade of experience in conducting research to improve pharmacy practice and quality of patient care. Her research focuses on development and dissemination of innovative interventions such as serious games to promote medication safety and adherence. Dr. Abraham uses human factors and system engineering concepts and techniques to characterize pharmacy practice and the medication use process. Currently, her research foci include: opioid medication safety, vaping prevention, and game-based learning. Dr. Abraham is the author of over 40 publications and has over 70 scientific presentations which include invited lectures, seminars, and conference presentations.

Roseanne Clark, PhD

Roseanne Clark, PhD is the UWPRC Core Research Project Multiple Principal Investigator and serves on the Administrative and Steering Committees of the UWPRC. She is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Medicine and Public Health and Faculty Director of the UW Infant, Early Childhood, and Family Mental Health Capstone Certificate Program and the UW Postpartum Depression Treatment Research Program. Dr. Clark’s research focuses on improving maternal, infant and early childhood mental health outcomes and assessment and treatment of early parent–child relationships. Dr. Clark is an internationally recognized expert in postpartum depression, assessment of the quality of mother–infant relationships, and parent–infant psychotherapy. She conducts clinical and translational research with underserved populations and has developed and evaluated the effectiveness of preventative and early intervention approaches in urban, rural and tribal communities. As UWPRC Core Research Project Multiple Principal Investigator, Dr. Clark works with Dr. Jane Mahoney on activities related to the Core Research Project, providing her extensive expertise in this field.

Sharon Gilbert, BS

Sharon Gilbert is the Home Visiting Nurse Consultant at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). Ms. Gilbert’s primary role involves connecting shared crosswalks and objectives between DHS and the Department of Children and Families. Sharon is trained in the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Breakthrough Series Collaborative. Prior to her work at DHS, Ms. Gilbert served at Ramsey County Public Health. Initially, she served as a nurse within the Mothers First program, which provides families with supportive services to address substance use disorder and chemical health needs, and later

worked for the Nurse–Family Partnership home visiting program. Since beginning her career as a registered nurse, Ms. Gilbert has had the opportunity to work within acute, chronic, and corporate settings. Ms. Gilbert’s highest joy is spending time with immediate and church family. Being with her husband, three married children and their spouses, five grandchildren and church family are her motivational highlights.

Shelby Beeker-Belanger, BA

Shelby Beeker–Belanger, BA is a Home Visitor Supervisor for the UWPRC Core Research Project. Shelby serves as the Family Program Manager for Family & Childcare Resources of N.E.W.

Tova Walsh, PhD, MSW

Tova Walsh is an Assistant Professor and PhD Program Director in the Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Walsh’s research focuses on understanding and improving health and wellbeing in multi-stressed families, with an emphasis on pregnancy and early parenting in contexts of risk. She studies the needs of underserved groups including new fathers and military-connected parents, and collaborates to develop and test interventions to meet those needs.

Tuyen Huynh, PhD

Dr. Tuyen Huynh, PhD, University of Wisconsin–Madison, is a T32 postdoctoral fellow at the Waisman Center. Her research

program examines existing mindfulness-based programs for families with young children. These programs include equipping parents with feasible strategies to cultivate greater mindfulness, compassion for self and others, and empathy in family relationships. In collaboration with community partners, Dr. Huynh's work also uses iterative processes (e.g., focus groups) to co-adapt existing programs to meet the specific needs of families within the community, ensuring the program's long-term sustainability and relevance content and activities for families. The long-term goal of her research plan is to make effective prevention programs accessible and culturally relevant to diverse populations.

Walter J. Orzechowski, MSPH, MBA, BS

Wally Orzechowski is the Executive Director of Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program (SWCAP). He has master's degrees in health care planning and business administration. His background includes public health, hospice, affordable housing, housing market research and development and community development. For almost twenty years Wally has been the Executive Director of SWCAP a rural, Wisconsin anti-poverty agency and has focused on reducing health disparities, developing affordable housing, encouraging local food production, job creation, small business development and many other projects to eliminate or reduce the problems faced by the rural poor. In recent years Wally's focus has been on developing housing for specific rural populations including farm worker housing, small scale housing in rural communities and housing for person recovering from opioid addiction. Most recently helping low income persons and families recover from the Covid 19 pandemic has been another top priority.

Zakiyyah Sorenson, RN, BSN

Zakiyyah serves as Outreach Manager and Engagement Hub Director for the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She is a registered nurse by training, and a former public health nurse who specialized in sexual and reproductive health within the reproductive justice framework. Zakiyyah's approach emphasizes reproductive and knowledge justice principles as guiding frameworks for collective liberation.

UWPRC Leaders



Director

Elizabeth Cox, MD, PhD is the UWPRC Director. She is a Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. She leads the Program of Research on Outcomes for Kids (PROKids) health services research team that investigates family-centered interventions to improve children's health outcomes.



Deputy Director

Dr. Jill Denson comes to the PRC from Public Health Madison Dane County, where she led programs in Sexual and Reproductive Health. Jill has a PhD in public health with a specialization in community and behavioral health promotion and is also a master's level social worker. She has held several leadership positions focused on maternal and child

health in community settings. Jill is committed to centering community voices and health equity in the PRC's work. Jill's interests lie at the intersections of Maternal and Child Health with Sexual and Reproductive Health. She has extensive experience in program development, building robust community partnerships and centering the voices of those who are marginalized. Given her background, her expertise has been focused on how social and structural determinants affect health, especially for groups most impacted by these determinants. She is an active member of the Wisconsin Maternal Mortality Review Team, Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Teams for Dane County and the City of Milwaukee, and Black Mamas Matter, a national organization dedicated to reducing maternal mortality for Black women, while centering holistic care.

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