Message from the Director

This has been an exciting and productive year for us at the Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research. As you will see in this first Annual Report our teams of faculty, students and community partners, have been busy with new and exciting programmatic and research efforts. Last year we began a process to examine the current state and future direction of the Institute for Urban Health Research at Northeastern University. Through a series of forums with faculty, staff, students, and community partners, we “Re-Imagined the IUHR.” These forums allowed us to consider our priorities and programs given the current environment and pressing need for research to inform and contribute to advancing issues of health equity and social justice. We examined the relationship of Health Equity to our ongoing work and future directions as framed by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; Health Equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care.

The Institute remains committed to the core mission first established in 2001 to improve the health and well-being of the residents of Boston and other urban communities. The Institute is focused on social determinants of health in urban settings, the promotion of health equity and the elimination of health disparities. However, with the growth of the Institute, our ongoing work with diverse groups of students, faculty and community partners, and the current scientific and social needs, we have rearticulated our mission to include greater attention to health equity and social justice and to reflect our partnerships with the growing number of communities impacted by inequity and social marginalization.

The mission of the Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research is to generate scientific knowledge needed to promote health equity and social justice and reduce disparities in health, mental health, and well-being.

This mission is of critical importance as despite tremendous advances in health care, the benefits of these advances have not been equally shared across communities. Many communities experience disparities in health, mental health, and well-being and at IHESJR, our teams of interdisciplinary researchers, students and community partners are engaged in efforts to prevent and reduce these health disparities associated with race, gender, neighborhood, immigration status, sexual orientation, and other stigmatized or marginalized statuses. We focus on the social and economic determinants of health and mental health to increase understanding of the factors that challenge health and well-being and those that promote community strength and resilience. Our teams are engaged in the development of strategies to reduce disparities through intervention and policy aimed at promoting health equity and social justice.

These disparities in health and mental health arise and persist as the result of complex individual,
community, societal and global factors. At the Institute we bring together faculty from across Northeastern University’s many departments and colleges, along with our research partners, to tackle these complex challenges. Our teams draw upon a wide range of research methods and intervention strategies but share common commitments to promoting health equity and social justice through high-impact, community engaged research.

This year we have developed three new programs to support these efforts, each of which are described in this report: 1) The Health Equity Intern Program; 2) The Faculty Scholars; and 3) The Northeastern University Public Evaluation Lab (NU-PEL). We also have focused our efforts around four areas of research described here and are supporting emerging efforts that bring together faculty and students from both Bouvé and the wider Northeastern University community to advance Health Equity research. This includes the NU-PEL partnered with the Institute for Race and Justice and the Public Policy School in CSSH; work in refugee, immigrant and global health; and expansion of our public mental health and substance abuse research to include research on suicide prevention.

It has been a tremendous privilege to serve as the Director the Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research over the past year. We greatly appreciate the continued support of Bouvé College and also I want to thank the many faculty, students and staff whom have been a part of these efforts, including our 36 Health Equity Interns, 17 Faculty Scholars from 5 colleges, and the many Institute staff who support these exciting efforts and make all of this happen.

Alisa K. Lincoln  
Director, Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research  
Associate Dean of Research, College of Social Science and Humanities  
Professor, Sociology and Health Sciences

Welcome to the Institute

This year 3 new faculty joined the Institute in pursuing its mission of promoting health equity and social justice.

Collette Ncube, DrPH, MPH, MS, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Sciences, Bouvé College of Health Sciences. She is a perinatal and social epidemiologist. Her overarching goal as a scientist is to improve our understanding of the systems within which health disparities, including racial and ethnic disparities, in maternal and child health are generated and perpetuated, in order to be able to develop interventions and propose policies to effectively address them.

Danielle Haley, PhD, MPH, is an Assistant Professor in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences in the Department of Health Sciences. Her research expertise includes studying the social determinants of health, with a focus on how features of the social and built environment, especially health policies, create disparities in health and health care utilization among people with or at increased risk for HIV. She utilizes multilevel, geospatial, and qualitative methods to explore these topics.

Laurie Dopkins, PhD, is the Executive Director of the Northeastern University Public Evaluation Lab (NU-PEL), a collaboration between IHES-JR and the Institute on Race and Justice, in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities. She brings to NU-PEL her extensive experience working as a lead evaluator as well as an consultant. Laurie is also the professor of the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs’ course, Techniques in Program Evaluation.
**New Program Initiatives**

This was a year of growing the work we do with both students and faculty. We worked to formalize the long standing commitment we have with training and mentoring students by developing the **Health Equity Internship** program. We also focused efforts on supporting and mentoring faculty through the revitalization of our **Health Equity Faculty Scholars** Program. Lastly we had our first year of establishing the **Northeastern Public Evaluation Lab** which works with faculty and students to provide evaluative services to community organizations.

**Health Equity Internship**

The Health Equity Internship is an opportunity for undergraduate students to learn about public health and health equity research. Students are matched with faculty who are affiliated with the Institute and work for a minimum of one semester on a research study.

The interns work on a variety of research studies on multi-generational research teams and receive mentorship and supervision from the Faculty Scholars, doctoral and master students. All are co-supervised by Suzanne Garverich, Program Assistant Director of IHESJR.

Suzanne Garverich has also developed and coordinated HEI research training opportunities. Core trainings are provided in literature searches and reviews, behavioral health research, human subjects protections, research ethics, survey and qualitative software, focus groups, and the well-being of the researcher.

Health Equity Interns work at least four hours a week with their assigned faculty mentor. Tasks range from literature reviews, data collection, management, and analysis, qualitative coding, transcribing, and other research related activities.

During the 2018-2019 academic year the Institute supported 35 Health Equity Interns. Students came from several colleges across the University: Bouvé College of Health Sciences, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, and the College of Science.

**Health Equity Interns**

- Nur Selin Akbulut, Biology and Political Science, 2021
- Aidan Baglivo, Health Sciences, 2021
- Emily Breen, Human Services, 2019
- Mackenzie Breen, Biology and Political Science, 2023
- Claire Buxton, Health Sciences, 2021
- Abigail Cahill, Neuroscience, 2021
- Ayanna Coburn-Sanderson, Health Sciences, 2021
- Denise Douglas, Pharmacy, 2021
- Connor Holmes, Health Sciences, 2021
- Mahir Kabir, Political Science and Economics, 2022
- Manjot Kaur, Health Sciences, 2021
- Amy Kelleher, Health Sciences, 2020
- Hyun Sue Kim, Health Sciences, 2019
- Ramya Kumar, Biology and Political Science, 2022
- Jennifer Magaña, Health Sciences and Business Administration, 2021
- Kathryn Margiotta, Psychology, 2021
- Maya Mudgal, Biology and Political Science, 2022
- Lauren Mendez, Behavioral Neuroscience, 2022
- Anna Moore, Health Sciences, 2019
- Jeanine Nasser, Health Sciences, 2022
- Phyiiyen Nguyen, Biology and Political Science, 2021
- Gal Nissan, Health Sciences, 2022
- Anita Onuoha, Health Sciences, 2021
- Kathleen Owens, Neuroscience, 2020
- Magdalena Pankowska, Health Sciences, 2019
- Michaiah Parker, Health Sciences, 2021
- Alissah Sillah, Health Sciences, 2021
- Taylor Smith, Health Sciences, 2020
- Olivia Sterns, Health Sciences, 2022
- Shadia Tannir, Health Sciences, 2022
- Kaitlin Toal, Health Sciences, 2022
- Sophia Wiltshire, Health Sciences, 2021
- Sylvia Wise, Health Sciences, 2021
- Clair Yu, Health Sciences, 2021
Research, Innovation and Scholarship Expo (RISE)

RISE brings together Northeastern University students of all levels to present their innovative research across all colleges. Judges from a host of industries come together to measure the ingenuity of Northeastern University research for this one day event.

This year there was strong Institute representation from Health Equity Interns and Graduate Students at RISE. Students presented on the research they have been involved in during the academic year.

Towards Heuristics for Designing and Evaluating Mobile Health (mHealth) Interventions

Nur Selin Akbulut and Mackenzie Breen collaborated on a poster focusing on the heuristics mobile health interventions. They worked with Dr. Andrea Parker, on two different mHealth interventions.

Hyun Sue (Caroline) Kim’s research won the Outstanding Student Research Award for the division of Social Science, Business, and Law.

Twitter as a Landscape for #MeToo Disclosure

Olivia Stern worked with Dr. Andrea Parker, on her research related to the #MeToo movement and the impact that had on people disclosing sexual abuse.

Evaluating Local Food Insecurity Solutions Using Systems Thinking

Emily Breen presented her Capstone research on food insecurity solutions.

A Systematic Review of the Use of Social Robots in Mental Health Research

Arielle Scoglio presented her and collaborators work on what and how social robots are utilized in mental health research.

The Longitudinal Effects of Body Image Concerns on Health Outcomes

Gal Nissan and Katie Margiotta worked with Dr. Rachel Rodgers, on her research related to body image and the impacts it has on health outcomes.
Health Equity Faculty Scholars Program

Our Faculty Scholars program provides an opportunity for faculty from across the University engaging in research with shared commitments to Health Equity and Social Justice to come together for shared learning opportunities, partner with Health Equity Interns, and to facilitate interdisciplinary research collaborations.

Faculty Scholars provide the Institute with their expertise and knowledge and help shape the IHESJR research agenda. Faculty Scholars also provide research experience to Health Equity Interns by supervising students as they join their research teams.

In building on the Institute’s planning process, we were eager to support work which advances the goals of health equity for diverse populations made vulnerable through marginalization and exclusion both locally and globally. In addition, we sought to diversify the pool of research active faculty and support junior faculty as they develop their research portfolios and who would be most impacted by the funding.

With the support of the Dean of Bouvé College of Health Sciences we have been able to provide a total of 15 pilot awards in 2018 and 2019. In spring 2018, 7 Health Equity Faculty Scholar Pilot Grant awards were made. In 2019, an additional 8 grants were awarded.

Health Equity Faculty Scholars

| Meryl Alper, PhD, Communication Studies, College of Arts, Media, and Design, Advancing Digital and Health Equity for Autistic Children Ages 9-13 (2018) |
| Leo Beletsky, JD, MPH, Health Sciences, Bouvé College of Health Sciences and School of Law |
| Sara Jensen Carr, PhD, Architecture, College of Arts, Media and Design |
| Danielle Haley, PhD, MPH, Health Sciences, Bouvé College of Health Sciences |
| Rachel Jones, PhD, RN, FAAN, School of Nursing, Bouvé College of Health Sciences |
| Tiffany Joseph, PhD, Sociology and Anthropology, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, (Not) All In: Race, Ethnicity, Immigration, Exclusion, and Health Care in America’s City on a Hill (2019) |
| Miso Kim, PhD, Art and Design, College of Arts, Media, and Design, Designing a Service to Improve Older Adults’ Technology Literacy for Health Autonomy (2019) |
| Margo Lindauer, JD, LLM, Health Sciences, Bouvé College of Health Sciences and School of Law |
| Jean Madden, PhD, Sc.M., Pharmacy, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, Food Insecurity among Medicare Beneficiaries (2018) |
| Collette Ncube, DrPH, MHPH, MS, Health Sciences, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, Development of a Preconception Health Risk Score (2019) |
| Andrea Parker, PhD, Khoury College of Computer Science and Health Sciences, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, Expressive Design: Personal Health Informatics Innovations to Support Coping and Resilience (2018) |
| Rachel Rodgers, PhD, Applied Psychology, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, Reel2Real, A Pilot Study: Increasing Social Media Literacy for Health Equity (2019); Tools for Health Equity across the Weight Spectrum: Development and validation of a paradigm to elicit fear of fat and desire for thinness (2018) |
| Laura Senier, MPH, PhD, Sociology and Anthropology College of Social Sciences and Humanities and Health Sciences, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, Blue and Green Spaces and Emotional Well Being among Urban Teens (2019); The Mental Health Effects of Access to Green and Blue Spaces in Urban Environments (2018) |
| Dani Snyder-Young, PhD, Theater, College of Arts, Media, and Design, Artist in Recovery: The role of theatre participation and arts-integrated peer leadership in substance addiction recovery processes (2019) |
| Liza Weinstein, PhD, Sociology and Anthropology, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Embodied Exclusion: The social production of marginality in a Mumbai slum settlement (2018) |
| Lichuan Ye, PhD, RN, School of Nursing, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, Sleep Deficiencies in Urban Black/African American Adults (2019) |
Works in Progress Series

For the second year, the Institute and the Health Sciences Department co-sponsored the Works in Progress Series (WIPS). This series gives faculty the opportunity to present on their current research to other faculty, staff, and students. It is a time where attendees can learn more about the work being done in Bouvé College of Health Sciences, as well as across colleges, and it also provides the presenting faculty a chance to get feedback about their research in progress. This year, Faculty Scholars who did not previously present the previous year presented on their research.

September 17, 2018
Alisa Lincoln, PhD, MPH
Exploring the relationships among discrimination and mental health outcomes with Somali young adults: A CBPR approach to refugee health

October 16, 2018
Jeanne Madden, PhD
Ability to afford food and medical care among Medicare enrollees

November 19, 2018
Meryl Alper, PhD
Advancing digital and health equity for autistic children

January 9, 2019
Danielle Haley, PhD, MPH
Quantifying health policy impacts on substance use and treatment among women with and at risk for HIV: A longitudinal multilevel analysis using the Women’s Interagency HIV Study

February 19, 2019
Rachel Rodgers, PhD, FAED
Using script-driven imagery to investigate fear of fat and desire for thinness

March 18, 2019
Liza Weinstein, PhD
The social construction of legal exclusion in an Indian slum: A multi-level study

The Northeastern University Public Evaluation Lab (NU-PEL)

NU-PEL is an interdisciplinary lab which began in 2018 through the support from a Tier 1 grant from the Northeastern University Office of Research Development, Bouvé College, and the College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH). Faculty from the Institute for Race and Justice came together with faculty from IHESJR to create a lab that brings together faculty and students from across the Northeastern University campus with an interest and commitment to developing community partnered evaluation efforts.

The overall vision of NU-PEL is to build a community-academic partnership to improve local communities and enhance the well-being of the people living in them through the use of evaluation research. This is accomplished by bringing together expertise and resources to advance the theory, practices, and utilization of evaluation through research, education, and services.

NU-PEL’s aims are threefold:

1. To build collaborations and share evaluation expertise across Northeastern University colleges.

2. To train students in the techniques of program evaluation through a wide-array of experiential learning opportunities.

3. To provide evaluation and consultative services to greater Boston area community organizations with the mission of improving the health, well-being and safety of the people impacted by these organizations.

Photograph by Jonah Min, for the Images of Urban Health Contest sponsored by IHESJR with the College of Arts, Media and Design, 2017.
Institute Research

Research at the Institute focuses on health equity and social justice and falls under four research cores: Public Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Violence Prevention and Trauma Studies, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Across the Life Course, and Refugee, Immigrant, and Global Health. Research being conducted at the Institute engages multiple methods and disciplines and many projects engage multiple cores.

2018-2019 Newly Awarded Grants

Developing the Evidence Base for Overdose Policies: A Multilevel Analysis of the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance data
Funded by NIDA Subcontract

Dr. Haley is collaborating with Dr. Cooper (PI) from Emory University in this study aimed at uncovering whether and how specific drug and health-related laws and place characteristics relate to a variety of overdose related outcomes among people who inject drugs, overall and by race, ethnicity, gender, age, and HIV status.

Hannah Cooper, Principal Investigator, Emory University Danielle Haley, Co-Investigator, Northeastern University Leo Beletsky, Co-Investigator, Northeastern University Michael Williams, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University Manjot Kaur, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University Phi Yen Nguyen, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University Madalena Pankowska, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University Claire Yu, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University

Developing Firearm Suicide Prevention Programs, Tailored to Gun Owner Population Subgroups
Funded by American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Subcontract

Dr. Lincoln is collaborating with Dr. Craig Ross (Co-PI), from Boston University School of Public Health to determine population specific suicide prevention strategies. This study is designed to (a) identify subgroups of gun owners through Latent Class Analysis, who share similar attributes and similar suicide risk profiles and then (b) conduct qualitative research with the subgroups to explore barriers and facilitators to the development of targeted firearm suicide prevention programs that can be adopted by each subgroup.

Craig Ross, Principal Investigator, Boston University Alisa Lincoln, Principle Investigator, Northeastern University Suzanne Garverich, Northeastern University Jaimie Gradus, Boston University Michael Siegel, Boston University Kevin Carvalho, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University Aiden Baglivo, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University

Evaluation of the Massachusetts Early Comprehensive Childhood Systems (MECCS) Impact Project
Funded by HRSA Subcontract

MECCS, led by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, overall aim is to demonstrate a 25% increase from baseline in age appropriate developmental skills amongst three-year-old children in two Massachusetts communities, Chelsea and Springfield.

Beth Molnar, Lead Evaluator, Northeastern University Kate Roper, Director, , Massachusetts Department of Public Health Eve Wilder, Coordinator, , Massachusetts Department of Public Health Carol Tobias, Consultant Jessica Wolfe, Project Manager, Northeastern University Sameera Nayak, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University Amy Kelleher, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University Sylvia Wise, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University Abigail Cahill, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University

Healthy Kids Health Futures
Funded by Boston Children’s Hospital

This program aims to prevent childhood obesity by supporting health promoting environments where young children live, learn, and play through a weekly, drop-in, community based program (Family Gym) for children ages 3-8. The goals of the current project are to expand the Family Gym program
to six additional community centers around Boston neighborhoods and to develop and evaluate a more robust nutrition education component.

Carmen Sceppa, Principal Investigator, Northeastern University
Jessica Hoffman, Northeastern University

Evaluating Technologies to Identify Fentanyl and Adulterants in Street Drug Samples
Funded by RIZE Foundation Massachusetts Subcontract

Dr. Santelices is collaborating with Dr. Tojoas Stopka (PI) from Tufts University on this study that coordinates with Care Zone, including Access, Harm Reduction, Overdose Prevention and Education (AHOPE) and the Boston Public Health Commission (BHCHP) staff, to track the number of clients utilizing fentanyl testing services (either using fentanyl strips of the MX908) and analyze changes in program reach and client demographics upon launching this service. Using a mixed methods design, the study also assessed implementation and effectiveness of fentanyl testing among people who use opioids (PWUO) through CareZone.

Thomas Stopka, Principle Investigator, Tufts University
Claudie Santelices, Co-Investigator, Northeastern University

Hi gh-Risk opioid Prescribers and Overdose in MA: A mixed methods approach
Funded by Massachusetts Department of Public Health Subcontract

Dr. Santelices is collaborating with Dr. Tojoas Stopka (PI) from Tufts University on this study that responds to the urgent need to address the high rates of opioid overdose and overdose deaths in Massachusetts. Since potentially inappropriate opioid prescribing practices (PIP) may contribute to increases in overdoses, this study investigates the spatial distribution of and statistical associations with influential PIP prescribers, and it aims to assess the geospatial landscape and identify hotspot clusters in MA for influential PIP prescribers, and assess associations with subsequent opioid overdose clusters.

Thomas Stopka, Principle Investigator, Tufts University
Claudie Santelices, Co-Investigator, Northeastern University
Alexander Wally, Boston University Medical Center
Mark LaRochelle, Boston University Medical Center
Peter Friedman, Baystate Health
Thomas Land, University of Massachusetts Medical School
Adam Rose, RAND Corporation

Emerging Areas of Research

This past year we have had research that has emerged to grow specific research areas of interest at the Institute: Public Mental Health and Substance Abuse Research and Refugee, Immigrant, and Global Health.

Public Mental Health and Substance Abuse Research

We have begun to grow our research in suicide prevention, which is part of the public mental health and substance abuse research area of interest at the Institute. We have not only begun growing this work through receiving an American Foundation of Suicide Prevention grant in collaboration with The Boston University School of Public Health, but we have also grow our partnerships with the State by receiving a Service, Master Service Agreement to provide research evaluation services to work being done in suicide prevention. Suzanne Garverich also continues her work with the Department of Mental Health in being on the ZeroSuicide State-wide Steering Committee. The Institute is also excited to partner with the Department of Public Health on some future endeavors in this emerging field for the Institute.

Through the work of Dr. Laura Senier, a Health Equity Faculty Scholar, we have grown our work in the areas of environmental health. Her research focuses on green and blue spaces, and the impact they have on mental health. She was awarded an Advancing Health Equity grant this year and a CSSH Research Development Initiative for her work with greater Boston area youth and their work with green and blue spaces.

Refugee, Immigrant, and Global Health

Through Dr. Tiffany’s Joesph work as a Health Equity Faculty Scholar on immigration and health care in Boston, we have been able to grow our work in this research area. Dr. Joseph received an Advancing Health Equity pilot grant, (Not) All In: Race, Ethnicity, Immigration, Exclusion, and Health Care in America’s City on a Hill. Her work has also led her to being chosen to attend the Health Disparities
Research Institute, sponsored by the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities this summer.

We have also increased our research capacity in global health this year with Dr. Liza Weinstein’s work on slums in India. She also received an Advancing Health Equity Pilot grant from the IHESJR entitled, Embodied Exclusion: The social production of marginality in a Mumbai slum settlement. This pilot work led to her submitting and receiving a 2-year National Science Foundation grant, Social Construction of Legal Exclusion in Indian Slums.

Finally, the Institute continues to partner with faculty and students from CSSH and the School of Law on the Sanctuary Cities Working Group. This team came together with the support of funding from Northeastern University’s Global Resilience Institute (GRI) and engages faculty and students from a wide ray of disciplines in issues of health and safety related to sanctuary policies and practices.

**Ongoing Research**

**Vicarious Trauma Toolkit (VTT): Evidence-Based Support for Victim Assistance**
Funded by U. S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime

The Vicarious Trauma Toolkit (VTT) is a first-of-its-kind online resource that helps guide first responder and victim service agencies in becoming vicarious trauma-informed. It contains a Compendium of Resources of nearly 500 existing and new resources including policies, research literature, training materials and links to websites, podcasts, and videos.

Beth Molnar, Principal Investigator, Northeastern University
Janet Fine, Project Director, Northeastern University
Karen Irene Kalergis, Product Coordinator, Independent Consultant
Sean Hallinan, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Lisa Tieszen, LIST Team Coordinator, Independent Consultant

**Linking Across Unmet Needs in Children’s Health - Project LAUNCH**
Funded by SAMHSA Subcontract

The LAUNCH project promotes the emotional, social, and behavioral health of young children, by enhancing early childhood service systems and promoting integration of early childhood mental health into pediatric medical homes. This expansion project, led by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, is being evaluated by researches at IHESJR under the direction of Dr. Beth Molnar.

Beth Molnar, Lead Evaluator, Northeastern University
Malika Arty, Program Manager, Boston Public Health Commission
Larisa Méndez-Peña, Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Kate Roper, Director, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Farzad Noubary, Northeastern University
Jessica Wolfe, Project Manager, Northeastern University
Sameera Nayak, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Andrés Hoyos Céspedes, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Abigail Cahill, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Amy Kelleher, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Sylvia Wise, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University

**Evaluation of the Massachusetts Multi-City Young Children’s Mental Health System of Care Project**
Funded by SAMHSA Subcontract

The purpose of this evaluation study is to determine the effectiveness of the Boston Public Health Commission’s (BPHC) System of Care (SOC) project on early child care service systems’ functioning, children’s mental, behavioral, and developmental health outcomes, and the projects’ impact on collaboration across the system of care.

Beth Molnar, Lead Evaluator, Northeastern University
Natasha Byars, Program Manager, Boston Public Health Commission
Jean McGuire, Northeastern University
Christy Moulin, Director, Boston Public Health Commission
Farzad Noubary, Northeastern University
Carol Tobias, Independent Consultant
Jessica Wolfe, Project Manager, Northeastern University
Sameera Nayak, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Andrés Hoyos Céspedes, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Abigail Cahill, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Amy Kelleher, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Sylvia Wise, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University

**Start Strong Boston: Readiness and feasibility of a promising after school urban teen dating violence intervention**
Funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
This study evaluated the readiness and feasibility of conducting a large-scale evaluation of Start Strong Boston, a Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) highly regarded community-based intervention that teaches middle school-aged youth about healthy relationships and avoiding dating violence. A Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) framework was utilized to engage a team of young researchers who had lived in the neighborhoods where the intervention takes place.

Beth Molnar, Principal Investigator, Northeastern University
Alisa Lincoln, Co-Investigator, Northeastern University
Elizabeth Beatriz, Project Coordinator, Northeastern University
Jess Alder, Site Director, Boston Public Health Commission
Felicia Simmons, Project Coordinator, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Karibe Ibeh, Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Crystal Figueroa, Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Francesca Fontin, Research Assistant, Northeastern University

Exploring Pathways Among Discrimination and Health Among Somali Young Adults
Funded by NIMHD

Dr. Lincoln is collaborating with Dr. Ellis (MPI) from Boston Children’s Hospital (BCH), Dr. Abdi, and a team of inter-disciplinary researchers, and leaders from the Somali communities to expand knowledge of the relationships among experiences of discrimination and health outcomes for young Somali adults. Ultimately the study aims to mitigate disparities in mental health and health outcomes experienced by immigrant young adults. This proposal builds upon a unique 17-year Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) program between Dr. Ellis' research team, including Dr. Lincoln and Dr. b, and Somali communities.

Heidi Ellis, Principal Investigator, Boston Children’s Hospital
Alisa Lincoln, Co-Investigator, Northeastern University
Saida Abdi, Boston Children's Hospital
Tibrine da Fonseca, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Leila Habib, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Hyun Sue (Caroline) Kim, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University

Pathways to Healing: A Mixed Methods Investigation of the Role of Justice in Healing of Mental, Physical, and Social Wounds of Sexual Assault Survivors
Funded by Provost Tier 1 Seed Grant/Proof of Concept Program

This investigation is aimed at collecting pilot data and testing different methods of recruitment, retention, and assessment to prepare for research proposals to fund a longitudinal cohort study of the role of justice in the healing of sexual assault survivors.

Beth Molnar, Principal Investigator, Northeastern University
Carlos Cuevas, Northeastern University
Susan Marine, Merrimack University
Margo Lindauer, Northeastern University
Daniel Medwed, Northeastern University
Arielle Scoglio, Project Coordinator, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University

Quantifying Health Policy Impacts on Substance Use and Treatment among Women with and at Risk for HIV
Funded by NIDA

This study aims to generate evidence on how health policies impact substance use and drug and alcohol treatment among women with and at risk of HIV in the United States, and explain the pathways through which these policies shape HIV viral suppression among women with HIV.

Danielle Haley, Principal Investigator, Northeastern University
Leo Beletsky, Primary Mentor, Northeastern University
Daniel Kim, Co-Mentor, Northeastern University
Michael Williams, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Manjot Kaur, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Phi Yen Nguyen, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Magdalena Pankowska, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University
Claire Yu, Health Equity Intern, Northeastern University

Saloni Dev, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
Samantha Meeker, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University
**Education for Improving Engagement in Treatment and Community Inclusion for People with Serious Mental Illness**  
Funded by Tufts University CTSI and Boston University CTSI  

Two pilot studies were awarded to develop and implement an adapted Adult Basic Education course in two public urban outpatient mental health clinics for those with limited literacy and living with serious mental illness.

Alisa Lincoln, Principal Investigator, Northeastern University  
Suzanne Garverich, Northeastern University  
Alexandra Alden, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University

**Sanctuary Cities**  
Funded by the Global Resilience Institute at Northeastern University  

This project seeks to identify how communities’ efforts to address questions regarding the role and place of sanctuary affects their resilience, and considers ways that cities might become more resilient as they respond to various forms of oppression, human rights violations, and other unjust exercises of power.

Alisa Lincoln, Principal Investigator, Northeastern University  
Carlos Cuevas, Northeastern University  
Martha Davis, Northeastern University  
Amy Farrell, Northeastern University  
Berna Turam, Northeastern University  
Tibrine da Fonseca, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University  
Ashley Houston, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University

**WE PLAY (Wellness Enhancing Physical Activity for Young Children)**  
Funded by Healthy Weight Research Network  

WE PLAY is an on-line professional development training program designed to help early learning professionals meet regulations and recommendations for physical activity with preschool children. WE PLAY aims to help early learning professionals gain understanding, ideas, and confidence regarding the benefits of physically active play. WE PLAY is approved by the Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children (MassAEYC) for Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

Jessica Hoffman, Principal Investigator, Northeastern University  
Charles Hillman, Co-Investigator, Northeastern University  
Carmen Sceppa, Co-Investigator, Northeastern University  
Mara Eyllon, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University  
Ellyn Schmidt, Graduate Research Assistant, Northeastern University

Congratulations to the Institute affiliated doctoral students who graduated in the 2018-2019 academic year!

**Dr. Ashwini Ranade**  
Doctorate of Population Health  
currently at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science

**Dr. Mara Eyllon**  
Doctorate of Population Health  
currently at Boston Medical Center

**Dr. Wallis Adams**  
Doctorate of Sociology  
currently at Boston University Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation
2019-2020 Events

Please mark your calendar for the coming events in the 2019-2020 academic year. Many more events will be taking place so please make sure to look on the website at the IHESJR calendar to keep up-to-date.

https://bouve.northeastern.edu/institute-of-health-equity-social-justice-research/

Works in Progress Series

Please join us in the 2019-2020 academic year at our Works in Progress Series (WIPS). This series is hosted by IHESJR and features IHESJR affiliated Faculty presenting their research in progress. It is a time for faculty to receive feedback and input on their research as well as a time for faculty, staff and students to learn about the research that is going on at the Institute as well as across colleges.

Please feel free to bring your lunch to the WIPS. We provide fruit, desserts and drinks. The WIPS take place in the Institutes conference room, 308 INV from 12:00-1:00, unless otherwise noted. We look forward to seeing you there.

2019-2020 WIPS Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 26, 2019</td>
<td>Dr. Lichuan Ye</td>
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<td>*October 8, 2019</td>
<td>Dr. Sara Carr</td>
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<td>October 17, 2019</td>
<td>Dr. Dani Snyder - Young</td>
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<td>November 21, 2019</td>
<td>Dr. Rachel Rodgers</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5, 2019</td>
<td>Drs. Matt Miller, Carmel Salhi, Alisa Lincoln</td>
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<td>January 16, 2020</td>
<td>Dr. Collette Ncube</td>
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<tr>
<td>**February 13, 2020</td>
<td>Dr. Tiffany Joseph</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 19, 2020</td>
<td>Dr. Miso Kim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16, 2020</td>
<td>Dr. Beth Molnar</td>
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</tbody>
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* co-sponsored by the Social Science Environment Health Research Institute. Note this WIP is from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm in 434 Curry Student Center

**co-sponsored by the Center for Health Policy and Law

Special Event: Power to Heal

Thursday November 14th, 2019
3:00-5:00 pm
Cabral Center, John D. O’Bryant African America Institute
40 Leon Street, Boston, MA 02115

The Institute along with the Social Science Environment Health Research Institute (SSEHRI) and the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project is sponsoring a viewing of the documentary, *Power to Heal*. This documentary is about the historic struggle to secure equal and adequate access to health care for all Americans. Central to the story is the tale of how a new national program, Medicare, was used to mount a dramatic, coordinated effort that desegregated thousand of hospitals across the country in a matter of months.

Please join us for this documentary followed by a panel of distinguished speakers: Dr. Daniel Dawes, Morehouse College, David Jones, PhD, Boston University School of Public Health, and Michael Meltsner, JD, Northeastern Law School.


Alper, M. (2019, May). Disability, voice, and the social implications of communication technology. LEAD20@MIT: Presented at the Leadership in the Digital Age, Ruderman Family Foundation and MIT Sloan School of Management, Cambridge, MA.


Alper, M. (2019, February). Disability and the social implications of communication technology. Presented at the Learning Sciences Speaker Series, Center for Teaching & Learning, Boston University, Boston, MA.


**Mendlinger, S.E.** (2019). The Love Triangle - family-work-school: Juggling the balance for emotional sanity while working in higher education. Presented at the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) Conference, Portland, MA.


**Molnar, B.E.,** & Roland, J. (2019). The Vicarious Trauma Toolkit. Officer Wellness Summit, UChicago Crime Lab, University of Chicago Urban Labs, Chicago, IL.

Publications and Presentations 2018-2019 (continued)


*denotes student author