

# UNC Research Interests and Upcoming Projects



Faculty	Areas of Interest
Projects on the Horizon- Summer 2019  <b>Chrissy Kisler (Chapel Hill)</b>	<p><b>Project: Feasibility of Genotyping in Nursing Homes to Prevent Medication Adverse Events</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> The summer student's primary role will be to participate in consenting and collecting data- both chart review, survey, and buccal swabs of residents (and/or their health-care power of attorney) in 2 local nursing homes. This work is the first step to examine the feasibility of genomic testing in the nursing home population and the frequency of potentially harmful medications based on individual genomic testing. The goal is to examine the rates of potentially harmful prescribing based on patient genotype. This summer position will expose the student to many research skills, including data collection, research protocol development and implementation, interview skills, and data entry. In addition, participation will provide the student with a valuable background in common problems of older person, with a focus on polypharmacy and deprescribing. If interested, the student will have the opportunity to develop presentations based on this work, and possibly to participate in development of a manuscript for publication. In addition to the main research focus, the student will have the opportunity to shadow medical providers in care settings and, as part of the Department of Family Medicine's summer research fellowship, participate in weekly research seminars. Mentorship will be provided by Chrissy Kistler, MD, MSc, an associate professor in Family Medicine, with additional board certification in geriatrics and palliative care, and the medical director of the UNC Palliative Care at Home program.</p>
	<p><b>Phil Sloane (Chapel Hill)</b></p> <p><b>Project: Medical and Mental Health Care in Assisted Living, with a focus on Persons with Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> The summer student's primary role will be to participate in conducting, coding, and analyzing telephone interviews with medical and mental health providers who work in assisted living settings. This work will be part of a large, federally-funded study of care provision in 230 assisted living communities in seven states. The goal is to better understand how medical and mental health services address behavioral symptoms in persons with Alzheimer's disease and other chronic illnesses, and the relationship between health care services and the use of prescription drugs and nonpharmacological alternatives.</p> <p>This summer position will expose the student to many research skills, including data collection, research protocol development and implementation, interview skills, data entry and coding, and development of both quantitative and qualitative analysis plans. In addition, participation will provide the student with a valuable background in common problems of older person, with a focus on Alzheimer's disease and related cognitive disorders. If interested, the student will have the opportunity to develop presentations based on this work, and possibly to participate in development of a manuscript for publication.</p> <p>In addition to the main research focus, the student will have the opportunity to shadow medical providers in care settings and, as part of the Department of Family Medicine's summer research fellowship, participate in weekly research seminars.</p> <p>Mentorship will be provided by Philip D. Sloane, MD, MPH, a Professor of Family Medicine, and Sheryl Zimmerman, PhD, a Professor of Public Health and Social Work, who jointly direct the Program on Aging, Disability, and Long-Term Care at UNC's Sheps Center for Health Services Research.</p>
<b>Jan Beste (Wilmington)</b>	<p><b>Project: Maternal screening at Well Child Visits</b></p> <p><b>Duties:</b> Asking mothers at 0-24 month well child visits about depression, smoking, multivitamin use and pregnancy intendedness.</p>

<b>Dana Neutze (Chapel Hill)</b>	<p><b>Project: Coordinating peer- and student-support for patients with poor social determinants of health.</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> Some patients struggle with getting to preventive service appointments because of difficulty with transportation. Inadequate screening puts them at higher risk of poor outcomes. The Family Medicine Center would like to start a program to coordinate medical student and peer support volunteers helping patients get to mammogram, colonoscopy and spirometry appointments. We are looking for a student to help with the implementation of the program and who will collect data to determine if this is successful or not. The student would learn about preventive screenings, care coordination for patients and how social determinants of health impact patients.</p>
<b>Tommy Koonce (Chapel Hill)</b>	<p><b>Project: Assessing the Impact of early undergraduate exposure to the medical school curriculum</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> For several years the UNC school of Medicine Patient Centered Care course has offered an opportunity for undergraduates to ‘audit’ a portion of the medical school curriculum by participating in the Introduction to Clinical Medicine for Undergraduates (ICMU) course. To date, the impact of that course has not been assessed.</p> <p>This project aims to measure and better understand the impact of participation in this course. This summer position will expose the student to research skills including survey design and possible focus group implementation and analysis. Upon completion, likely scholarly products include a poster presentation at the national meeting of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine and AAMC as well as possible publication in appropriate medical education journals.</p>
<b>Tommy Koonce (Chapel Hill)</b>	<p><b>Project: Measuring the Impact of ‘Near-Peer’ Education to Teach the Sexual History</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> The sexual history can be challenging skill for medical students to master. It requires a safe learning environment for practice but also close approximation to real world scenarios. For several years UNC SOM has utilized second through fourth year volunteers to help portray medical scenarios as first year students learn the sexual history. Though simple, this ‘near peer’ education strategy is novel in the domain of teaching the sexual history.</p> <p>This project aims to measure the impact of this ‘near peer’ education strategy on students and volunteers. This summer position will expose the student to research skills including survey design and possible focus group implementation and analysis. Upon completion, likely scholarly products include a poster presentation at the national meeting of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine and AAMC as well as possible publication in appropriate medical education journals.</p> <p>Using lessons learned from this study, student participants will also have the opportunity to help shape the next iteration of sexual history teaching in the PCC course.</p>
<b>Gabriela Castro (Siler City)</b>	<p><b>Project: Mapping Patient Experience at a Community Health Center</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> The summer student’s primary role will be to participate in mapping the experience of patients seen at Siler-PHS Community Health Center, a federally qualified health center in rural North Carolina 45 minutes from Chapel Hill. The student will collect data to describe the logistics of how patients progress through the clinical workflow and to describe the subjective experience of seeking and receiving care at Siler-PHS. Review of the data will be used to develop a practice process map and identify current team-member roles and responsibilities. This information will also be used to identify areas where redesign might be important to meet patient care needs. This preliminary data collection will be shared with the center leadership and quality improvement team.</p> <p>This experience will immerse the student in the clinical operations of a primary care practice that focuses on underserved populations, providing the student opportunities to learn about patient experience, clinical workflow mapping, and approaches to practice redesign. The student will participate directly in project design/implementation, data collection (observational and patient/clinician interviewing), data entry and analysis.</p>

		<p>Part of this work includes shadowing clinicians, meeting with leadership and participating in quality improvement team discussions. Opportunities for scholarly presentation of this work are available for interested students. This would be a superb learning experience for any first year UNC medical student with interest in learning how medical practices function. Because the clinic serves many Latino patients, students with Spanish language skills are especially encouraged to apply.</p> <p>Guidance and mentorship for this project will be provided by Gabriela Castro MD, an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine (<a href="mailto:gabriela_castro@med.unc.edu">gabriela_castro@med.unc.edu</a>).</p>
	<b>Karen Isaacs (Wilmington)</b>	<p><b>Project:</b> Impact evaluation of screening for social determinants of health and of community health workers</p> <p><b>Duties:</b> population-based data collection on select outcomes</p> <p><b>Good fit:</b> A student with interest in community/population health, public health, systems improvement, and data analysis.</p>
	<b>Knoll (MAHEC)</b>	<p><b>Project: Preconception/Interconception Health or Early Childhood Development</b></p> <p><b>Duties:</b> literature review work, IRB application development, and/or creating/evaluating quality improvement PDSA cycles.</p> <p><b>Good fit:</b> Interest in women and children's health, quality improvement</p>
	<b>Latessa (MAHEC)</b>	<p><b>Project: LIC preceptor experience (qualitative work)</b></p> <p><b>Duties:</b> Part of research team underway with collecting and analyzing data with another Asheville campus fourth year student and a MAHEC resident</p> <p><b>Good fit:</b> Interest in academic medicine, medical education, qualitative work</p>
	<b>Knapp (MAHEC)</b>	<p><b>Project: Validation of screening questions on a sports pre-participation exam</b></p> <p><b>Duties:</b> Helping with data collection, analysis and literature review</p> <p><b>Good fit:</b> Interest in sports medicine and mental health within the athlete population</p>
<b>Asher</b>		Dr. Asher's research focuses on the use of Complementary and Alternative Medicine for chronic conditions such as hypertension and cancer, with a primary focus on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of botanical agents. He has been involved in several acupuncture studies, as well as systematic reviews of acupuncture for pain and non-pharmacologic treatments for depression. He is currently leading clinical and translational trials of curcumin for prevention and treatment of colorectal cancer.
<b>Daaleman</b>		Dr. Daaleman's areas of interest include care of medically vulnerable populations and chronic illness care; social and cultural influences on chronic illness and end- of-life care including religion and spirituality, and; aging and the life course.
<b>Byron</b>		Dr. Byron uses behavioral science to learn how to improve health communication to support health policies in the US and abroad. He focuses on tobacco control and is currently examining public perceptions of a very low nicotine content cigarette policy and how to prepare healthcare providers for this policy.
<b>Donahue</b>		Dr. Donahue's research interests include primary care practice redesign, chronic disease and prevention, health behavior change and collaboration among public health and primary care. She is co-director of the North Carolina Network Consortium (a practice-based research meta-network), and is Vice Chair for Research in Family Medicine.
<b>Fraher</b>		Dr. Fraher's research focuses on understanding the flexible use of workers in new models of care; developing data and methodologies to project how many health workers will be needed under different future scenarios; and using life course theory to better understand health professionals' career trajectories.
<b>Goldstein</b>		Dr. Goldstein conducts research on health policy related to tobacco regulatory science, patient-centered tobacco cessation, disparities in tobacco use, health communication and behavior change, and gun violence prevention.
<b>Halladay</b>		Dr. Halladay's research interests include working in ambulatory practices and health care systems with investigative and clinical teams who collectively aim to enhance care delivery and outcomes for patients with chronic conditions, specifically cardiovascular disease, asthma, and tobacco use. She has a particular interest in understanding the practice level costs of participating in various quality improvement and practice transformation activities. She is the Co-Director of the North Carolina Network Consortium (NCNC), a statewide Practice Based Research Network ( <a href="http://www.ncnc.unc.edu">www.ncnc.unc.edu</a> )

<b>Kistler</b>	Dr. Kistler's area of interest is decision-making around the care of older adults, particularly the appropriateness of their care. Her research has focused primarily on preventive services such as cancer screening and tobacco cessation, and around infection control.
<b>Pathman</b>	Dr. Pathman's work centers on research and evaluation of organization, state and federal programs and policies that affect the work and lives of physicians and other healthcare practitioners, and on how these, in turn, affect access and quality of patient care and clinicians' careers. Specific areas of research have been in the effects on clinicians of organization personnel policies, clinical guideline dissemination, provider satisfaction under various employment configurations and work controls, rural health professional distribution, medical education, access to care, health disparities, and community medicine
<b>Porterfield</b>	Dr. Porterfield conducts public health systems research and public health program evaluations through RTI International. Her areas of interest are chronic disease public health practice, in particular, diabetes prevention; performance measurement in public health practice; and integration between health care and public health.
<b>Ranney</b>	Dr. Ranney has a strong interest in prevention and health promotion research to promote healthy lifestyles and prevent chronic disease. She is also interested in regulatory science research, in particular how regulating the manufacture, distribution and marketing of tobacco products can protect the public.
<b>Shoenbill</b>	Dr. Shoenbill's primary research interests include secondary use of EHR data, natural language processing, and machine learning to inform and improve quality of care and patient outcomes.
<b>Sloane</b>	Dr. Sloane's research interests include institutional and community-based long- term care, management of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, medical care of older persons, <u>medical symptoms</u> , and translational research.
<b>Zolotor</b>	Dr. Zolotor's areas of interest include child abuse epidemiology and prevention. He currently serves as the co-PI of the largest evaluation of a shaken baby prevention program ever conducted. He is currently developing a cell phone based parenting program initially for adolescent parents. The program will include informational videos, nurse case management (phone, text, and email), online and text based peer support, screening and referral for high-risk conditions (such as depression).

**Learn more about primary care research and exciting success stories at:**

North Carolina Network Consortium <http://ncnc.unc.edu/>

UNC Family Med Research <http://www.med.unc.edu/fammed/research>