Student Research Opportunities

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Why is Research Important?

- Create new knowledge
- Advance field of public health
- Contribute to welfare of persons beyond the study itself
- Identify populations or areas most in need - health disparities

Research results contribute to:
- Prevention
- Early Detection
- Understanding diseases and risk factors
- Policy Initiatives
- Overall health of the population – locally, nationally, globally
Research Centers and Programs

Bixby Center on Population & Reproductive Health
Pebley

Center for Cancer Prevention & Control Research
Ganz, Bastani

Center for Global & Immigrant Health
Armenian, Wallace

Center for Health Policy Research
Kominski, Wallace

Center for Healthier Children, Families, & Communities
Halfon

Global Media Center for Social Impact
de Castro Buffington

Center for Environmental Genomics
Zhang, Schiestl

Center for Occupational & Environmental Health
Jackson

Center for Health Advancement
Fielding

Center for Public Health & Disasters
Eisenman, Shoaf

UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity
Bastani

UCLA/ RAND Prevention Research Center
Bastani, Chung

Center for Global Infectious Diseases
Godwin

World Policy Analysis Center
Heymann
Center for Global & Immigrant Health
(Armenian, Wallace)

Website address

http://ph.ucla.edu/research/centers/ucla-center-global-and-immigrant-health

UCLA Center for Global and Immigrant Health

The last several years have seen major transformations in global public health, requiring major expansion and reconstruction of the international public health workforce. Many emerging health problems require timely and sustained research efforts and require application of the best scientific knowledge and focused training and continuing education for the global public health workforce.

The UCLA Center for Global and Immigrant Health was...
Participating faculty have active research collaborations in over 50 countries

Certificate in Global Health

Open to any graduate student

Requirements include:
- Required courses related to Global Health (http://ph.ucla.edu/research/global-health-fsph/global-health-courses)
- Complete an international experience
- Complete departmental project on Global health Topic
- More information: http://ph.ucla.edu/research/global-health-fsph
Arah - Beyond individual determinants: The role of health system, economic and environmental factors in the global burden of chronic diseases among more than 250,000 individuals from 68 countries.

Armenian – Feeding practices of babies and the development of atopic dermatitis in children after 12 months of age: Is there a signal?

Harrison – Pre-conception care including folic acid supplementation and pregnancy outcomes in the Middle East; Risk for and prevention of early childhood overweight: Does the WIC program play a role?

Morisky – Reduction of STD rates in Philippines: government requiring commercial establishments employing sex workers to ensure women undergo bimonthly examinations

Wallace - Immigrants arrive in the U.S. with better than average health, which declines over time – Mexican immigrants were the least likely to receive preventive care services, even after adjusting for sociodemographic differences in the population.
Bixby Center on Population & Reproductive Health (Pebley)

- **Research areas:**
  - Population, reproductive health, and family planning
  - Reproductive health issues in developing countries where population growth rates high and reproductive health services are poor or inaccessible

- **Bixby certificates**
  - Master’s students
  - Complete course work, 10-week field placement, departmental project and participates in the Reproductive Health Interest Group (RHI G)
  - [http://bixby.ucla.edu/bixby-certificate/](http://bixby.ucla.edu/bixby-certificate/)
**Li and Detels** - Using the Internet to Improve the Quality of Contraceptive and Reproductive Health Services in Rural China

**Harrison** – Exploring the potential impact of preconceptional care including folic acid supplementation on pregnancy outcomes in three countries of the Middle East.

**Pebley** – The potential impact on health and mortality of environmental change from global warming, air pollution, land-use trends

**Tavrow** - Vendor-to-vendor education to improve malaria treatment by private drug outlets in Bungoma District, Kenya.
Website address
http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/
Center for Health Policy Research (Kominski, Wallace)

- **Research areas include:**
  - Economics of health care
  - Health insurance coverage
  - Access to, and quality of, care
  - Prevention of chronic illness

- **California Health Interview Survey (CHIS):**
  - [http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu](http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu)
Babey – Research shows direct link between soda and obesity; Teens with packed lunches eat less fast food

Ponce, Lavarreda, Cabezas - Up to 220,000 California children excluded from health care reform due to immigrant status

Kominski – Chiropractic care is more expensive than medical care for treating low back pain without producing significantly better results

Pourat – One in three young children do not get regular dental care

Roby, Nicholson, Kominski - African Americans in commercial HMOs are more likely to delay prescription drugs and use the emergency room

Wallace – Nearly 1 million Californians seek medical care in Mexico each year
Website address
http://www.cphd.ucla.edu/

New Resources
CPHD provides evidence-based resources, which were developed using the best science and evidence in training, planning, and preparedness.

CPHD Online Surveys

Public Health Incident Command System (PHICS)
Address critical issues faced when disaster impacts community

Domestic and international, natural and human-induced disasters

Facilitate dialogue between state/local public health agencies, CBOs, schools, hospitals and emergency management

Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center (PERRC) - CDC award, $4.8 mil for 4 years (Shoaf)

- Evaluate structure, capabilities and performance of public health systems for preparedness and emergency response activities.
- Facilitate research to strengthen ability of federal, state, and local public health agencies to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural and human-induced disasters, including terrorism

http://www.cphd.ucla.edu/
- **Eisenman, Glik, et. al.** – Variations in disaster preparedness by mental health, perceived general health, and disability status

- **Glik and Shoaf** – What not to say: Risk communication for Botulism

- **Ershoff, Afifi, Bourque** – Exploring the causal relationship between exposure to the 1994 Northridge earthquake and pre- and post-earthquake preparedness activities

- **Siegel, Shoaf, Afifi, Bourque** – Surviving two disasters: Does reaction to the first predict response to the second?
Center for Environmental Genomics (Zhang, Schiestl)

Website address
http://ph.ucla.edu/research/centers/center-environmental-genomics

Center for Environmental Genomics brings together experts from a variety of fields to investigate the molecular mechanisms by which environmental agents such as air pollutants and radiation interact with genetic predisposing factors to cause disease.
Research

- Evaluate mechanisms and effects of environmental carcinogens; passive smoking, indoor air pollution, water pollution

- Assess role of genetic susceptibility, including genes of DNA repair, metabolic, cell cycle regulation, inflammation, stem cell, microRNA pathways

- Study potential gene-environmental interactions on development/progression of cancer and other non-communicable diseases

- Apply knowledge gained to cancer and NCD etiology, early detection/screening, prevention and control research and practice

Training

- Training Program on Molecular Epidemiology of Cancer
  [http://www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/cancer_training_grant.html](http://www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/cancer_training_grant.html)
Robbins, Zhang and Eckhert – dietary boron intake/occupational boron exposures and its effects on cancer development and reproductive events

Ritz and Schiestl – pesticides exposure and gene expression profiling in the development of prostate cancer

Martinez-Maza, Detels, and Zhang – molecular epidemiology of lymphoma

Froines and Zhang – epidemiological studies of air pollution and lung cancer

Hussain, Detels and Zhang – molecular epidemiology of B-cell activation, DNA repair & HIV-associated lymphoma
Center for Healthier Children, Families, and Communities (Halfon)

- Joint effort of DGSM and FSPH and also includes faculty from UCLA Schools of Public Policy, Law, and College of Letters and Sciences

- Understand how health develops across the span of an individual’s life

- Develop novel and responsive programs to improve children’s health

- Increase efficiency, effectiveness, and distribution of health and social services

- Assist communities in transforming into healthier environments

- Turn data into information used to make decisions and implement action
Inkelas - The Early Developmental Systems Initiative: building systems that provide reliable and effective supports for prevention, health promotion, and recognition and response to developmental concerns in children age 0-5 years.

Nicholas and Herman – The National Children’s Study: longitudinal study of the effects of the environment on children’s health, growth, and development.

Halfon and Herman – UCLA Child and Family Health Leadership Training Program: providing advanced professional training in the design of family-centered health services, formulation and analysis of policy options, advocacy for children and families, and research and evaluation of health systems serving mothers, children, families, and communities.
Cancer Prevention & Control Research (Ganz, Bastani)

Website Address
http://ph.ucla.edu/research/centers/center-cancer-prevention-and-control-research

Center for Cancer Prevention and Control Research

The Center for Cancer Prevention and Control Research is a joint program of the School of Public Health and the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center at UCLA. Since its inception in 1976, the Center has been nationally and internationally recognized for its pioneering work in cancer prevention and control research.

MISSION

NCI-designated Cancer Centers are a major source of discovery of the nature of cancer and of the development of more effective
Cancer Prevention & Control Research (Ganz, Bastani)

- Joint program with FSPH and Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

- 2 major areas
  - Healthy and At-Risk Populations Program – prevention and early detection (Bastani)
  - Patients and Survivor’s Program – goal to reduce avoidable morbidity and mortality among cancer patients, survivors, and family/caregivers (Ganz)

http://ph.ucla.edu/research/centers/center-cancer-prevention-and-control-research
Bastani – Increasing cervical cancer screening among underserved women in a large urban county health system: Can it be done? What does it take?…System Level Interventions

Berman and Jo – development of tailored educational materials about breast health, breast cancer, and breast health advocacy for Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing women

Ganz – Breast cancer, menopause, and long-term survivorship: critical issues for the 21st century; Chemotherapy for breast cancer: Quality of life returns by physical symptoms need more attention

Kagawa-Singer – REACH 2010 - Promoting access to breast and cervical cancer screening among Pacific Islander & Southeast Asian Women

McCarthy – Evaluation of the In-School Tobacco Use Prevention Education Program

Zhang – Smokers who eat 3 servings fruits/vegetables and drink green or black tea may protect themselves from lung cancer
Center for Health Equity (Bastani)

**Website Address:**
http://healthequity.ucla.edu/
Center for Health Equity (Bastani)

- Partnership with Kaiser Permanente
- Community-based participatory intervention research in health promotion and disease prevention to mitigate disparities
- Facilitates community and academic partnerships
- [http://healthequity.ucla.edu/](http://healthequity.ucla.edu/)
Center for Health Equity (Bastani)

- **Bastani and Glenn** - Promote informed decision making regarding prostate cancer screening among low income Latino men.

- **Ortega** - Undocumented Latinos visit physicians less often than U.S.-born counterparts

- **Maxwell** - Increase colorectal cancer screening among Filipinos

- **McCarthy and Roberts** - Poor aerobic fitness associated with lower standardized test scores in California schools

- **Flores** - Examining the impact of genetic and environmental risk factors on liver disease susceptibility in a cohort of Mexican adults

- **Ponce** - Patient-centered outcomes research in community health centers
Website Address

http://www.ph.ucla.edu/prc

The UCLA/RAND Prevention Research Center was created in 1998 as a Prevention Research Center by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Our Center’s mission is to conduct prevention research that:

1. Addresses the needs of children, adolescents, young adults, and their families;
2. Builds empowering relationships with community partners in Los Angeles and beyond; and
3. Directly benefits communities and/or transforms local, state, and national policies.

Our major research areas are: physical activity, nutrition, and obesity; childhood immunizations; work-family conflict; parent-child communication; cancer prevention and control; health care utilization and quality of care. The Center is a unique partnership of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, the UCLA Department of Pediatrics, the RAND Corporation (a non-partisan, private, non-profit research institute), and a wide range of community partners. The Center’s multi-disciplinary faculty and staff represent the fields of public health, medicine, psychology, sociology, economics, political science, anthropology, education, statistics, and survey design.

The Center conducts community-based participatory research jointly with its diverse community partners and includes a center-wide community advisory board (CAB), project-specific CABs, a youth CAB, the Los Angeles Unified School District, LA County Department of Public Health, and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.
UCLA/RAND Prevention Research Center (Bastani, Chung)

- CDC Prevention Research Center

- Addresses the needs of children, adolescents, young adults, and their families

- Builds empowering relationships with community partners in Los Angeles and beyond

- Directly benefits communities and/or transforms local, state, and national policies.
- Longitudinal study of adolescent health (e.g., violence, substance use, injuries, physical activity, nutrition), from 5th grade to age 20

- Students for Nutrition and eXercise (SNaX) - parent-focused intervention to improve childhood nutrition and exercise in schools

- Children with HIV-Infected Parents

- Alcohol Advertising and Adolescents

- Employment and Leave Among Parents of Newborn Infants with Special Health Care Needs

- Worksite-based parenting program to help parents develop skills to improve communication with their adolescents (e.g., sexual issues and risk reduction behavior)
The mission of the UCLA Center for Occupational & Environmental Health is to address occupational and environmental health issues through advanced research, teaching, training opportunities and service to the Southern California community.
Areas of research

- Exposure assessment in occupational and environmental health
- Industrial hygiene
- Aerosol science
- Developmental toxicology
- Air pollution/water quality
- Nanotechnology/nanotoxicology
- Risk assessment and environmental policy
Froines - Smallest airborne pollutants produced by car and diesel truck exhaust can inflict severe damage to human lung cells

Froines/Cho - Toxicologic pathways of rail yard emissions exposure on non-cancer health impacts in Long Beach, Commerce, and San Bernardino

Godwin - Risk factors for lead poisoning and detection of lead (e.g., children’s toys, candy)

Ritz - Exposure to high levels of outdoor air pollution linked to greater risk of death in infants’ first year; Consumption of unregulated well water near pesticide spraying increases Parkinson’s risk

Schiestl - Nanoparticles in common household items cause genetic damage in mice

Zhu - Reducing air pollution exposure in passenger vehicles and school buses; assessing children’s exposure to ultrafine particles from vehicular emissions
Center for Global Infectious Diseases (Godwin)

- **Website Address**
  
  http://ph.ucla.edu/research/centers/center-global-infectious-diseases

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**Global Bio Lab**

The central focus of the Global Bio Lab at UCLA is to provide a worldwide collaborative network of researchers, public health workers, governments and the medical community with accurate and timely situational awareness. Quick detection of these diseases is critical to halting and containing their spread. In 2006, the UCLA School of Public Health, committed to create a high-tech laboratory network to combat emerging infectious diseases. The UCLA Global Bio Lab will serve as the core automated high throughput facility to support both population based surveillance activities for infectious diseases and basic infectious diseases research.

Beyond its research and disease-response capacities, the Global Bio Lab aspires to become a global steward and will work through its bioscience, chemistry and theoretical divisions and collaborating interdisciplinary Centers to prepare and educate a new generation of leaders in infectious diseases and national security.

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I'd like to recognize Dean Linda Bassett at the School of Public Health at UCLA. Credit More...

They are planning a partnership to build the first high-speed high-volume laboratory network to combat emerging infectious diseases. This is really impressive. One of the challenges we face where my foundation works is to develop healthcare systems to diagnose treat and care for people with HIV and AIDS in the most severe settings. We have insufficient lab capacities. If we had this sort of network, it would alleviate a lot of these needs.

— Mike Chopra
Chavez-Dodd Foundation
Center for Global Infectious Diseases (Godwin)

- Understand environmental and genetic factors that contribute to emergence and re-emergence of infectious diseases
- Detecting, controlling and monitoring of infectious diseases before becoming pandemics
- Global Bio Lab
  - Worldwide collaborative network of researchers
  - Quick detection of diseases
  - http://www.ph.ucla.edu/gbl/
Center for Health Advancement (Fielding)

**Website Address**

http://ph.ucla.edu/research/centers/ucla-center-health-advancement

**MISSION**

The UCLA Center for Health Advancement (The Center) provides enhanced analysis and evidence-based information to help policymakers decide which policies and programs can best improve public health.
Center for Health Advancement (Fielding)

- Provides enhanced analysis and evidence-based information to those who make and influence public and private sector policies/programs

- Core expertise in health impact assessment, health forecasting, and modeling inter-sectoral planning and analysis
Center for Health Advancement (Fielding)

- Health Impact Assessment of the Los Angeles City Living Wage Ordinance
- Aging Boomers, Healthy Latinos: Implications for California’s Health Care Infrastructure
- Forecasting Diabetes Prevalence in California: A Microsimulation
- Health Impact Assessment of State Gas Tax Alternatives
- Health Impact Assessment of Potential Modifications of Physical Education Requirements in California
World Policy Analysis Center (Heymann)

Website Address
http://world.ph.ucla.edu/

The goal of the World Policy Analysis Center is to improve the quantity and quality of comparative data available to policymakers, citizens, civil society, and researchers around the world on laws and policies affecting human health, development, well-being, and equity. Under the leadership of Dr. Jody Heymann, Dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, the Center is committed to making its broad, globally comparative findings publicly accessible to inform and encourage improvements in legal and policy frameworks worldwide. It allows nations to learn from the approaches taken in other countries, to facilitate studies of the feasibility and effectiveness of laws and policies in critical areas, and to support global and local civil society in their efforts to hold decision-makers accountable.

NEWS
To improve quantity and quality of comparative data available to policymakers, citizens, civil society, and researchers around the world

Inform and encourage improvements in legal and policy frameworks, affecting human health, development, well-being, and equity.

Analyzed detailed information on constitutional rights, laws and public policies in all 193 UN member states
Global Media Center for Social Impact (de Castro Buffington)

Website Address
http://ph.ucla.edu/research/centers/global-media-center-social-impact-0

Global Media Center for Social Impact

Website coming soon

The Fielding School of Public Health at UCLA has established an innovative new center to increase awareness of important health issues and improve the well-being of people throughout the world by harnessing the storytelling power of television, film, music and new media.

By collaborating with the entertainment industry and news media, the Global Media Center for Social Impact will help content creators and reporters craft compelling stories that accurately address a full range of public health issues — from the social determinants of health to climate change and early childhood health — with the goal of impacting global health.
Global Media Center for Social Impact (de Castro Buffington)

- Increase awareness of health issues and improve well-being of people by harnessing storytelling power of television, film, music, and new media

- Help content creators and reporters craft compelling stories of public health issues
Biostatistics

**Belin** - performance of a general location model with an ignorable missing-data assumption in a multivariate mental health services study

**Crespi and Wong** - develop new methods for the design of studies with clustered binary data, such as mechanistic models of within-cluster dynamics and incorporate these methods into sample size and power calculations to improve prediction of intraclass correlation.

**Cumberland** - using model based estimations to provide better estimates of standard errors for population sampling and biomedical applications

**Li** - semi-parametric estimation of survival probabilities for incomplete cross-sectional data arising frequently in prevalent cohort studies

**Weiss** - exploratory Data Graphics for Repeated Measures; Comparing High Dimensional Computer Simulation Output and Data Using Principal Components

**Wong** - construction of cost-effective designs for practitioners that are multi-objective to enable flexibility and capture multiple goals embedded in most studies
Research Section of FSPH Website
http://ph.ucla.edu/research

Research

Our faculty and students are involved in projects that span bench science, applied research, policy analysis, and community-based local and international projects. Examples of research areas include: access to healthcare, environmental quality, reproductive health, cancer, health disparities, children's health, as well as newer areas of strength in genomics, global health and emerging infectious diseases.

Research throughout the school is supported by generous federal, state and private funding, a testament to the merit of our faculty and the quality of their research.

INTRODUCTION TO THE UCLA CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE INSTITUTE (CTSI)

- Steven Dubnett, MD - Overview of the CTSI (PDF)
- Pamela Davidson, MHS, PhD - Evaluation & Health Services Research (PDF)
Resources

- Research Interests of Faculty
  - Faculty Profiles via Department, Center, and FSPH websites
  - FSPH Magazine
    Link to current magazine and some archives: http://ph.ucla.edu/news/magazine
Funding Opportunities (FSPH)

- **GSR positions** at Centers or with Faculty
  - Both Master’s and Doctoral

- **Department-level** funding opportunities – inquire with Department or Student Affairs Office
  - **Epidemiology Department Training Programs:**
    [http://www.ph.ucla.edu/EPI/training_programs.html](http://www.ph.ucla.edu/EPI/training_programs.html)

  - **Health Policy and Management Department Training Programs:**
    [http://hpm.ph.ucla.edu/students-alumni/prospective-students/financial-support](http://hpm.ph.ucla.edu/students-alumni/prospective-students/financial-support)

- Opportunities within Centers, such as:
  - **Bixby Program Summer Internships**
    [http://bixby.ucla.edu/funding-opportunities/internships/](http://bixby.ucla.edu/funding-opportunities/internships/)

  - **Global Health Fellowships Program**

  - **UCLA Child and Family Health Leadership Training Program**
Funding Opportunities (UCLA)

- **Graduate Division Funding Opportunities**
  http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/asis/stusup/fundingop.htm

- **Fellowships and Grants for Entering Graduate Students**
  http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/asis/entsup/fellgrnt.htm
  - Graduate Opportunity Fellowship Program (master’s degree)
  - Dr. Ursula Mandel Scholarship (doctorate degree)

- **Financial support for continuing graduate students**
  http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/asis/stusup/stusup.htm
  http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/asis/stusup/contspprt.pdf
  - Summer Research Mentorship – Max. $6000 (~ Feb. 20)
  - Research Mentorship Award ($20k, plus tuition and fees) (~March 6)
  - Dissertation Year Fellowship ($20k, plus tuition and fees) (~Feb. 20)

- **Listservs:**
  - Graduate & Postdoctoral Extramural Support Database (GRAPES)
    http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/grpinst.htm
  - Graduate Fellowship Listserv
    http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/asis/infoserv/gflist.htm
Funding Opportunities (Extramural)

- Need faculty research mentor to apply

- National Agency Grants (e.g., NIH, NCI, NIAAA, NIMH)

- Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Pre- (F31) and Post- (F32) doctoral Fellows (NRSA)
  [http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gss/postdoc/nihadmin.htm](http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gss/postdoc/nihadmin.htm)

- Dissertation Funding from many different agencies
  - TRDRP
  - AHRQ—Dissertation Funding
    [http://www.ahrq.gov/fund/training/rsrchtnng.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/fund/training/rsrchtnng.htm)
  - NIMH: Mental Health Research Dissertation Grant to Increase Diversity
  - NIDA: Drug Abuse Dissertation Research
Funding Opportunities (International)


- UCLA International Institute [http://www.international.ucla.edu/funding/](http://www.international.ucla.edu/funding/)
Conducting Research at UCLA

- All studies need Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval: [http://ohrpp.research.ucla.edu/](http://ohrpp.research.ucla.edu/)

- Human Subjects research training and certification [http://www.training.ucla.edu/](http://www.training.ucla.edu/)

- In general, students cannot apply for grants on their own

- Need faculty member sponsor

- Contact your department administrator (MSO) immediately if you are interested in applying for a funding opportunity
Contact Us!

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