



**Arnold School of  
Public Health**

# Global Health Newsletter

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**The purpose of our Global Health Newsletter is to disseminate the global health research, education, and outreach of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni.**

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## **Faculty Spotlight**

*Leila Larson, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior*

**How would you describe your current global health research?**

*My current research has two main topics of focus: 1) the design of interventions to*



*improve early child development and health, and 2) improving the assessment of indicators of nutrition and of brain development.*

*In January, in collaboration with Plan International Liberia, we will be starting a feasibility study that will examine the acceptability and feasibility of an integrated health, nutrition, and parenting intervention in rural Liberia. We will engage with caregivers of young children using qualitative and quantitative interviews to understand their parenting, feeding, and infection-control practices, as well as perceived benefits of the intervention, enablers and barriers to intervention implementation, opportunities for improvement to content and delivery, and other topics that will help us refine and adapt the intervention package. Data from the feasibility study will support an effectiveness trial to study the effects of the adapted integrated intervention on child cognitive development in Liberia. My other topic of focus is around the measurement of nutritional and brain biomarkers. Specifically, I am interested in how common methods for measuring hemoglobin concentration in population-based surveys may lead to erroneous estimates of anemia prevalence. I am also interested in developing new techniques and paradigms to measure brain functioning in children in resource-limited settings, to study effects of public health interventions in more targeted and sensitive ways than we have in the past.*

**What other global health activities are you involved in at the university?**

*I teach HPEB 772: Current Trends in Developing World Health. It is a*

*topic that I am passionate about, and I enjoy bringing in my own personal experiences into the class material. For instance, I go through my own interest in early child development, why I think it is such an important health outcome, and what solutions exist to address the burden of poor development in various settings. I also have open and honest conversations with students around privilege in global health work. I talk about what we, as students, faculty, and practitioners, can do to reduce inequities within our own collaborations with global partners.*

*Since starting at UofSC in August 2020, I have had the pleasure of working with several students on global health projects. Sejla Isanovic and Shelbie Wooten are two incredible MPH students who have been helping the team prepare for the upcoming Liberia feasibility study. I also advise two PhD students, Victoria Adebisi and Fahmida Akter, who both have strong interests in addressing the nutrition and development of women and children in settings with limited resources.*

**Given the pandemic, what adjustments did you have to make regarding your research?**

*I feel as though I am having to make new adjustments almost every day. The threats from the pandemic are continuously changing (e.g., delta, now omicron, another Greek letter is likely just around the corner) and our plans for fieldwork in Liberia have faced a lot of uncertainty. I was driving myself nuts thinking through every possible scenario that could arise and affect our ability to conduct the Liberia work. For my own mental health, I have decided to just keep pushing forward and focus only on the things I can control.*

*As I prepare to visit Liberia, I am continuously reminded of the global vaccine inequity. I think about the privilege that I, as someone living in the US, have compared to my collaborators in*

*Liberia. In the US, every adult is now eligible for a third booster shot. In Liberia, less than 10% of the population has received a single dose.*

**What adjustments did you have to make regarding starting your faculty position?**

*I don't always have great timing, but I will say that my interview at UofSC was timed perfectly. I flew with my husband and 2 month-old baby from Australia to the US in late February 2020. We flew back on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Two days later, the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic.*

*The pandemic made our permanent move back to the US (with an infant) quite tricky, but my husband and I are thrilled to have moved to Columbia. We've settled into a lovely home in Shandon, and we are surrounded by wonderful neighbors whom we now call our friends. I am thoroughly enjoying the supportive nature and intellectual rigor that the HPEB department carries. I'm thrilled to be part of this wonderful community.*

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## **Alumni Spotlight**

*Chiwoneso Tinago, PhD, MPH, CHES, Associate Professor in the Department of Health at West Chester University*

**What degree did you receive from UofSC?**

*PhD in Health Promotion, Education and Behavior (May 2016)*

**Tell us a little bit about your current**



**position and what you do in the field of global health.**

*I'm an Associate Professor in the Department of Health at West Chester University of Pennsylvania (WCU) where I teach both undergraduate and graduate public health courses that include Transcultural Health, Global Community Health Promotion, and Global Health Simulations. I also serve as the faculty advisor for WCU students at the American and London Mock World Health Organization conferences in addition to co-directing the WCU Uganda Global Health Service-Learning Program where mostly underrepresented students learn about a groundbreaking, integrated approach to addressing and improving maternal and child health, and food insecurity. I study individual and structural environmental influences on health among adolescent girls and women in south-east Africa through emic and community-based participatory methods. I also study pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, and mental health using both qualitative and quantitative methodology. I chair the WCU College of Health Science Global Health Research Team which is an interdisciplinary team collaborating on funded global health projects.*

**How did your time at UofSC prepare you for the career path you are on now?**

*My time in HPEB refined and introduced key skills that I currently use in my research, service and teaching activities. I credit the amazing faculty and staff in HPEB for creating an environment that*

*promoted innovation and learning, and where I felt like my ideas mattered.*

**What do you recommend to current students at UofSC that are interested in global health?**

*Identify, reach out, and work with a global health mentor(s). Build strong and sustainable community partnerships working collaboratively with key stakeholders.*



**ANNOUNCING**

**1<sup>ST</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON PUBLIC HEALTH IN AFRICA**

**CPHIA 2021**

**14-16 December, 2021 • VIRTUAL**

**www.cphia2021.com**

The 1st International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA), which was postponed earlier this year due to COVID-19, will now take place virtually from **14-16 December 2021**. The conference offers a unique platform for African researchers, policymakers and stakeholders to share scientific findings and public health perspectives and collaborate on research, innovation and public health across the continent.

**More Information**

THE ARNOLD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRESENTS

# THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND GLOBAL HEALTH FORUM

The International Student and Global Health Forum is a place for students to present their international interests and expertise in global health. The forum presentations will start back up during the Spring semester. In the meantime, join the [Global Health Student listserv](#) for updates on events, opportunities, and more.

## Recent Publications

Cheng Y-F, **Xirasagar S**, Yang T-H, Kuo N-W, Lin H-C. (2021). [Association of hearing loss with land transport accidents: a nationwide population-based study](#). *International Journal of Audiology*. DOI: 10.1080/14992027.2021.1998677

Cho YJ, **Thrasher JF**, Davis R, Kim S, Hardin J, Popova L. [Effective package warning label systems for communicating relative risks of cigarettes, heated tobacco products, and e-cigarettes: An experimental study with Korean adults](#). *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 2022; 99:103468.

Cho YJ, **Thrasher JF**, Driezen P, Hitchman SC, Reid JL, Hammond D. [Trends in exposure to and perceptions of e-cigarette marketing among youth in England, Canada and the United States between 2017 and 2019](#). *Health Education Research*, 2021; cyab039

**Frongillo EA**. [Validity and cross-context equivalence of experience-based measures of food insecurity](#). *Global Food Security* 32:100599, 2022.

**Frongillo EA**, Basnet S, Halpin PF, *et al*. [Assessment of Positive and Stimulating Home Environments for Global Monitoring](#). *J Child Fam Stud* (2021).

**Frongillo EA**, Escobar-Alegria JL. [Advancing use of nutrition knowledge to improve](#)

practice by policy and program communities in India during a political transition. *Current Developments in Nutrition* 5:nzab120, 2021

**Giannouchos TV**, Steletou E, Saridi M, et.al. Mandatory vaccination support and intentions to get vaccinated for COVID-19: Results from a nationally representative general population survey in October 2020 in Greece. *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice* 2021.

Hess SY, **McLain AC**, **Frongillo EA**, Afshin A, Kassebaum NJ, Osendarp SJM, Atkin R, Rawat R, Brown KH. Challenges for estimating the global prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies and related disease burden: A case study of the Global Burden of Disease Study. *Current Developments in Nutrition*. nzab141, 2021.

Hodge AM, Karim MN, **Hébert JR**, Shivappa N, de Courten B. Association between Diet Quality Indices and Incidence of Type 2 Diabetes in the Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study. *Nutrients*. 2021; 13(11):4162.

Jáuregui A, White CM, Vanderlee L, Hall MG, Contreras-Manzano A, Nieto C, Sacks G, **Thrasher JF**, Hammond D, Barquera S. Impact of front-of-pack labels on the perceived healthfulness of a sweetened fruit drink: a randomized experiment in 5 countries. *Public Health Nutrition*. 2021:1-36. doi:10.1017/S1368980021004535

Kachwaha S, Nguyen PH, Tran LM, Avula R, Young MF, Ghosh S, Forissier T, Escobar-Alegria J, Sharma PK, **Frongillo EA**, Menon P. Specificity Matters: Unpacking Impact Pathways of Individual Interventions within Bundled Packages Helps Interpret the Limited Impacts of a Maternal Nutrition Intervention in India. *J Nutr*. 2021;nxab390. doi:10.1093/jn/nxab390

Kadam I, Neupane S, **Wei J**, Fullington LA, Li T, An R, Zhao L, Ellithorpe A, Jiang X, Wang L. A Systematic Review of Diet Quality Index and Obesity among Chinese Adults. *Nutrients*. 2021; 13(10):3555.

**Kanyangarara M**, Allen S, Jiwani SS, et al. Access to water, sanitation and hygiene services in health facilities in sub-Saharan Africa 2013–2018: Results of health facility surveys and implications for COVID-19 transmission. *BMC Health Serv Res* 21, 601 (2021).

**Larson LM**, Braat S, Hasan MI, et al. Preanalytic and analytic factors affecting the measurement of haemoglobin concentration: impact on global estimates of anaemia prevalence. *BMJ Global Health* 2021;6:e005756.

McAbee L, Tapera O, **Kanyangarara M**. Factors Associated with COVID-19 Vaccine Intentions in Eastern Zimbabwe: A Cross-Sectional Study. *Vaccines*. 2021;



**Ostermann J**, Yelverton C, Smith HJ, et. al. Preferences for transitional HIV care among people living with HIV recently released from prison in Zambia: a discrete choice experiment. *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, 2021.

Reyes LI, Constantinides SV, Bhandari S, **Frongillo EA**, Schreinemachers P, Wertheim-Heck S, Walls H, Holdsworth M, Laar A, Nguyen T, Turner C, Wellard K, **Blake CE**. Actions in global nutrition initiatives to promote sustainable healthy diets. *Global Food Security* 31:100585, 2021.

Reyes LJ, **Frongillo EA**, Moore S, **Blake CE**, Gonzalez W, Bonvecchio A. Functions of social networks in maternal food choice for children in Mexico. *Maternal & Child Nutrition*, 2021, e13263.

Souliotis K, **Giannouchos TV**, Golna C. et. al. Assessing forgetfulness and polypharmacy and their impact on health-related quality of life among patients with hypertension and dyslipidemia in Greece during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Qual Life Res*(2021).

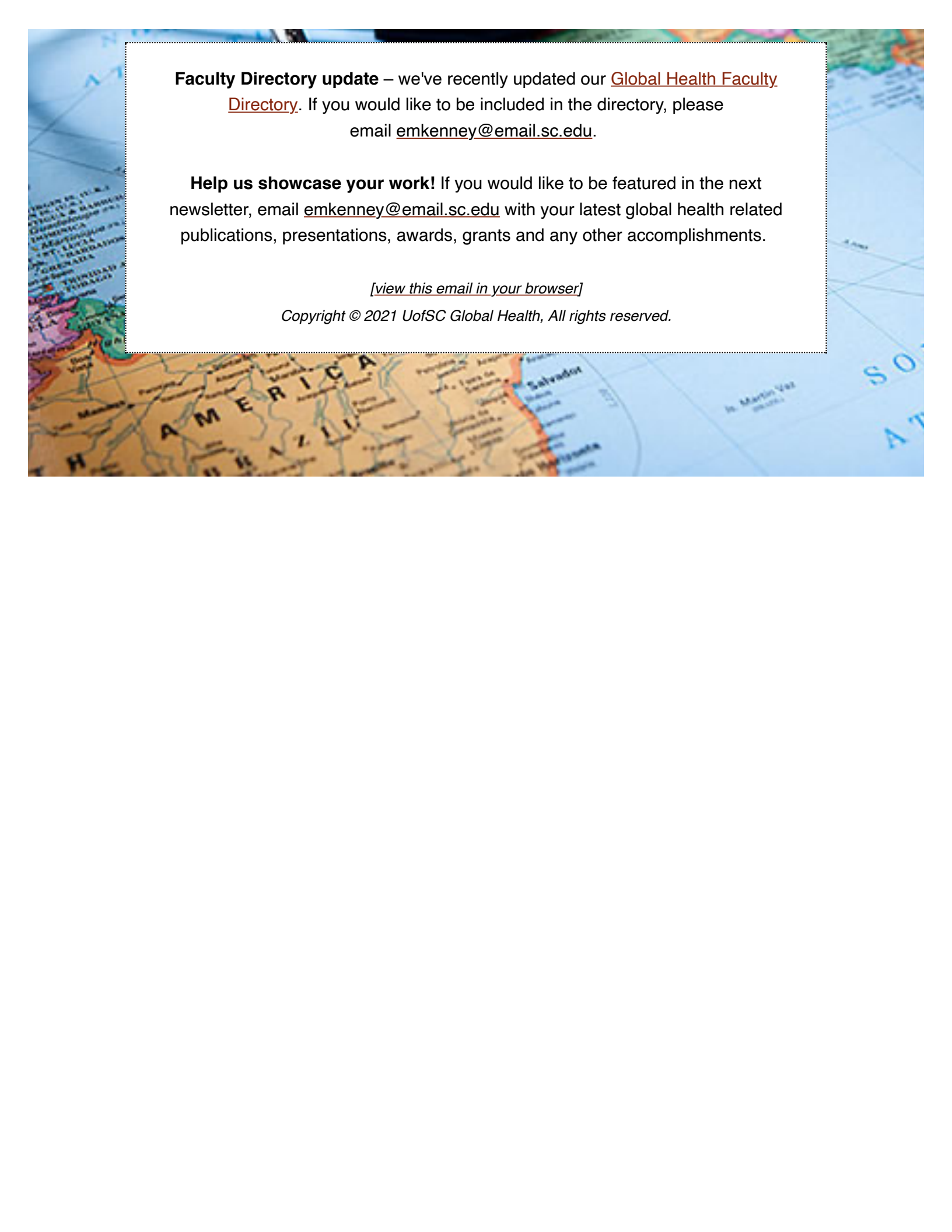
Schreinemachers P, Shrestha RM, Gole B, Bhattarai DR, Ghimire PL, Subedi BP, Brück T, Baliki G, Gautam IP, **Blake CE**. Drivers of Food Choice among Children and Caregivers in Post-earthquake Nepal. *Ecology of Food and Nutrition*, 2021; 60:6, 826-846, DOI: 10.1080/03670244.2021.1969925

Todendi PF, Salla R, Shivappa N, **Hébert JR**, et al. Association between dietary inflammatory index and cardiometabolic risk factors among Brazilian adolescents: results from a national cross-sectional study. *British Journal of Nutrition*. 2021:1-9. doi:10.1017/S0007114521003767

Tong H, Zhou Y, **Li X**, **Qiao S**, Shen Z, Yang X, Zhang Q, Zeng C. Stress coping strategies and their perceived effectiveness among HIV/AIDS healthcare providers in China: a qualitative study. *Psychology, Health & Medicine*, 2021. DOI: 10.1080/13548506.2021.1983184

Yang X, Zeng C, Tam CC, **Qiao S**, **Li X**, et al. HIV Service Interruptions During the COVID-19 Pandemic in China: The Role of COVID-19 Challenges and Institutional Response from Healthcare Professional's Perspective. *AIDS Behav* (2021).



A background map of Central America and the Caribbean region, showing countries like Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. The map is partially obscured by a white text box with a dotted border.

**Faculty Directory update** – we've recently updated our [Global Health Faculty Directory](#). If you would like to be included in the directory, please email [emkenney@email.sc.edu](mailto:emkenney@email.sc.edu).

**Help us showcase your work!** If you would like to be featured in the next newsletter, email [emkenney@email.sc.edu](mailto:emkenney@email.sc.edu) with your latest global health related publications, presentations, awards, grants and any other accomplishments.

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