



VCU

School of Public Health

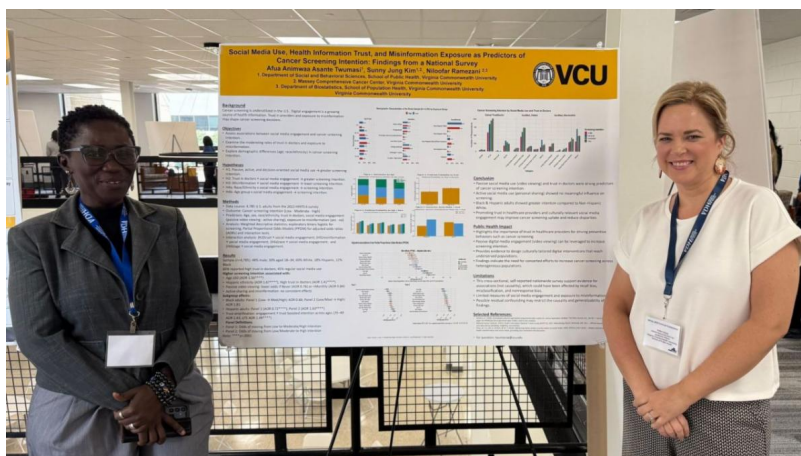


October, 2025

Awards & Honors

- Dr. Autumn Lanoye was appointed to VCU Faculty Senate.
- Dr. Krista Mincey was appointed to the Virginia Department of Health's Institutional Review Board.
- Dr. Katherine Tossas received a grant from the Jeffress Trust to continue her work on cancer disparities within Native American populations in Virginia. The new project is entitled the "Virginia Tribal Nations TRUTH Project" and will focus on collaboratively investigating the root cause of persistent cancer disparities facing Native Americans statewide.

Student Spotlight



Afua Twumasi, MPH, MBChB presented a poster co-authored with her mentor, Dr. Sunny Kim, entitled "Social media use, health information trust, and misinformation

exposure as predictors of cancer screening intention: Findings from a national survey" at the Virginia Public Health Association annual meeting in September. She also presented "Race, trust, and the role of social media engagement" at Massey's Walter Lawrence, Jr., MD Retreat on September 5th.



Paula Rivera attended a networking meeting organized by the Colombian Embassy in Washington, D.C. The event aimed to foster collaboration among Colombian students and professionals and to strengthen engagement with representatives of the Colombian government in the United States, as well as with delegates from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Research Spotlight

- Senior Clinical Research Coordinator for the OPT for Health Lab Vivian Hunter passed her SOCRA exam and now has her CRRP (Certified Clinical Research Professional) certification.



VA-ACCERT CENTER

Virginia Advancing Cancer
Control Engaged Research
Through Transformative
Solutions



On July 19th, the [VA-ACCERT Center](#) (co-led by Jessica LaRose, PhD, Bernard Fuemmeler, PhD, and Brynn Sheehan, PhD) in collaboration with Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center and Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University held the Closing the Gap Coping with Cancer Summit in Norfolk, Virginia. Dr. Autumn Lanoye co-chaired the planning committee. The summit brought together researchers, clinicians, community members, and advisory board leaders to explore the emotional and psychological impacts of cancer. The focus of the day was community-driven methods to improve mental health support in cancer care, with an emphasis on the experiences of those

affected.



Recent Presentations

- Dr. Richard Brown presented at the International Conference on Communication in Healthcare this October in Ottawa, Canada.
- Drs. Asmaa Namooos (SBS '23) and Vanessa Sheppard gave two presentations at the International Cancer Education Conference this October in Memphis, TN.
- Dr. Katherine Tossas presented on the Chickahominy TRUTH Project at the Division of Community Engagement's Community-Engaged Research Series on September 11th. She also traveled to Lagos, Nigeria in July to present at the National Institute for Cancer Research & Treatment and Lagos University Teaching Hospital.

Recent Publications

Dr. Jessica LaRose:

Hines AL, Sall F, Utsey S, Perera R, Evans RK, et al. (2025) Rationale and protocol for an observational study of *in vivo* stress experiences and real-time

cardiovascular responses among young, black women: The DYNAMIC study. PLOS ONE 20(9): e0330508. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0330508>

Dr. Krista Mincey:

Fortune, D. A., Doherty, I. A., Mincey, K. D., & Robinson, S. A. (2025). "Health education research process and overview of research designs". In Research Handbook on Health Education, Health Promotion and Diversity. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781035316434.00008>

Drs. Asmaa Namooos (SBS '23) and Vanessa Sheppard:

Namooos A, Ramadan D, Meekins R, Sheppard V, Thomson N. An Exploratory Retrospective Analysis of Racial Disparities in Fall-Related Injuries Among Black and White Breast Cancer Survivors Receiving Chemotherapy. Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2025 Jul 17;22(7):1129. doi: [10.3390/ijerph22071129](https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph22071129)

Namooos A, Abosamak N, Sheppard V. A Pilot Study: Adaptation Phase of the PROMIS Women Education Program—Promoting Cervical Cancer Prevention Methods Among Muslim Women in Virginia. Cancer Med. 2025 Oct 10;14(19):e71296. doi: [10.1002/cam4.71296](https://doi.org/10.1002/cam4.71296)

Dr. Maria Thomson:

Williams A, Genderson MW, Thomson MD. Disparities in Dental Visits Among Participants of the Virginia Living Well Registry. Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdoe.70010>

Dr. Katherine Tossas:

Bridy PV, Cruz JC, Covington JL, Islam TI, Hadley CE, Tran K, Fry R, Sheffield BA, Serrano M, Buck GA, Zhao J, Tossas KY, Meyers C, Morgan IM, James CD, Jefferson KK. 2025. Human papillomavirus 16 mitigates Sneathia vaginalis-induced damage to cervical keratinocytes. mSphere 10:e00152-25. <https://doi.org/10.1128/msphere.00152-25>

Alumni Spotlight



Asmaa Namooos, MD, PhD, MPH (SBS '23) received the American Association for Cancer Education Endowed Scholarship Award this October. Her project investigates the physical and psychological effects of breast cancer treatment and aims to inform survivorship care strategies to improve quality of life.



Drs. Kristal Lyn Brown (SBS '20) and Idris Robinson of Drexel University led a two-week intensive course abroad (ICA) in Cuba, in partnership with the University of Cienfuegos. This experiential course, Community Health, Arts, and Environmental Justice (Cuba CHE) introduced students to Cuba's prevention-first public health model. This ICA highlighted Cuba's ability to integrate both non-traditional practices—Thai Chi, dance, spirituality, softball, and medicinal herbs with westernized approaches for overall wellness across the lifespan both physically and mentally. One of the highlights of their trip was visiting Casa de Abuelos—a senior care facility that allowed students to learn and play dominos with the senior in attendance. Among other activities, Students also visited the graphic art society, where they collaborated with artists with Down Syndrome to create a mobile mural that reflected “what peace means to them”. Cuba CHE truly highlighted the importance of taking an interdisciplinary approach to improving and sustaining well-being. It also reflects the importance of prioritizing real-world experiences for student learners.

Wellness Wins



Postdoctoral fellows Chloé Jones, PhD and Karly Casanave-Phillips, PhD completed the 4th annual Run Richmond 16.19 this September. This event honors Black history in America, and celebrates Black culture and community in Richmond with a course leading through important sites.

SBS Fall Welcome



In August we held a welcome event for our new students and faculty to kick off the Fall term! Starting this year were PhD students Samiha Raisa and Emmy Oyenevin, as well as new faculty members Lauren Snellings, Emiola Oyefuga, PhD, and Krista Mincey, DrPH, MPH, MCHES.

SBS in the News

Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center collaborated with the Virginia Department of Health to hold the Virginia Public Health Summit on Cancer this June. Dr. Katherine Tossas shared that the goal of the summit was to "develop, collaborate on and execute a shared health agenda statewide."

[Read story](#)

[Watch video](#)

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 22nd 10:00am-12:00pm

VCU's Division of Community Engagement Faculty Workshop
Advancing Scholarship Through Community Engagement
Register [here](#)

Thursday, October 30th 11:30-1:00pm

SBS Department Halloween Party & Costume Contest
12th floor conference room

Friday, November 14th

VCU Community Engagement Connect Conference 2025
Register [here](#)

Submit your news and updates for the newsletter!

[Click here](#)



Social and Behavioral Sciences

804-628-3443

sophsbs@vcu.edu

sbs.vcu.edu

Connect with us



School of Public Health | 830 E Main St | Richmond, VA 23219 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!