



VCU

School of Public Health



March, 2025

News & Updates



Joining us this summer: Dr. Krista Mincey!

Starting June 1st, Dr. Mincey will be serving as Director for Undergraduate Public Health Education & Training for the SOPH, and will have a department home in SBS. She comes to VCU from Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon, Georgia where she has served as associate professor in the Department of Community Medicine since 2021.

Call for abstracts

Women's Health Research Day
Wednesday, April 9th, 2025 1:00-4:30pm

Submit an abstract for the 19th Annual Women's Health Research Day. The symposium this year is titled "Nutrition and Women's Health." The symposium will begin at 1 p.m. followed by a poster session and reception from 3-4:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Jonah L. Larrick Student Center, 900 Turpin St. Abstracts

from all fields with elements of women's health and/or sex/gender differences are encouraged. Awards will be given for best posters in basic, clinical/translational and community sciences. Monetary awards will be given for to a Young Investigator and best interdisciplinary abstract. Submit an abstract by 5 p.m. Monday, March 24 at the following URL.

For more information, contact Lillia Thumma at thummadl@vcu.edu or visit <https://womenshealth.vcu.edu/research/womens-health-research-day-2025/>.

Call for nominations

Excellence in Community Engagement

The Council for Community Engagement invites nominations for awards for excellence in community engagement. The categories are transformative educational experiences, community engaged research partnership, demonstrated impact in community engagement, outstanding community engagement by a student or group of students and outstanding community partner. For all awards, nominees should exemplify the values of community engagement, collaboration, and a commitment to addressing real-world challenges. Submit a nomination at the following URL by Friday, April 4. Nominees will be notified and asked to submit a letter of support from their community partner. Questions: Email muellermr@vcu.edu or lavetrovec@vcu.edu, co-chairs for the awards committee.

For more information, contact Misti Mueller at muellermr@vcu.edu or visit <https://community.vcu.edu/dce-news-events/events/>.

Awards & Honors

Dr. Chloé Jones (PI) and Dr. Jessica LaRose (mentor) received funding for *From House Chats to Live Chats -- The dissemination of a grassroots community-health intervention for residents of Petersburg, VA*. This award is part of the 2024 Community-Engaged Data Dissemination Grant, administered by the Division of Community Engagement.

Dr. Sunny Jung Kim received an award as PI through the Center for Research, Health, and Social Justice funded by The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Dr. Autumn Lanoye is a co-investigator on a project funded by the National Brain Tumor Society Quality of Life Award titled, *Stronger Together: Reducing Dyadic Fear of Cancer Recurrence in Neuro-Oncology*.

SBM Annual Meeting

The Annual Society of Behavioral Medicine meeting is coming up on March 26-29 in San Francisco. Here are some of the presentations to be given by members of SBS!

Casanave-Phillips, Lanoye A, LaRose JG, Valle CG. (March, 2025). Examining the role of pain and psychological well-being in a physical activity intervention adapted for AYAs. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Francisco, CA.

Ellison-Barnes A, **Lanoye A, LaRose JG**. (March, 2025). Social and economic disruptors to treatment benefit in behavioral weight loss for emerging adults. Symposium: Reshaping Behavioral Interventions for Emerging and Young Adults: Addressing Contextual Needs and Adaptations. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Francisco, CA.

Kim, S. J., Hawila, R., Rychtar, J., & Taylor, D. (March, 2025). Examining vaccine uptake and refusal across diseases: Insights from population-based models. Poster presentation at the 46th Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions of the Society for Behavioral Medicine, San Francisco, CA.

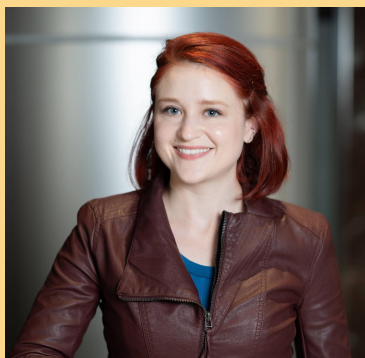
Ellison-Barnes A, **Lanoye A, LaRose JG**. (March, 2025). Social and economic disruptors to treatment benefit in behavioral weight loss for emerging adults. Symposium: Reshaping Behavioral Interventions for Emerging and Young Adults: Addressing Contextual Needs and Adaptations. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Francisco, CA.

Tatum KL, Ford JS, Henning T, **Casanave-Phillips K**, Bean MK, **LaRose JG**. (March, 2025). Exploring the role of social drivers of health and protective factors on quality of life among adolescent and young adult cancer survivors. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Francisco, CA.

Lanoye A, Casanave-Phillips K, LaRose JG. (March, 2025). Addressing mood dysregulation in a behavioral weight loss program for emerging adults. Symposium: Reshaping Behavioral Interventions for Emerging and Young Adults: Addressing Contextual Needs and Adaptations. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Francisco, CA.

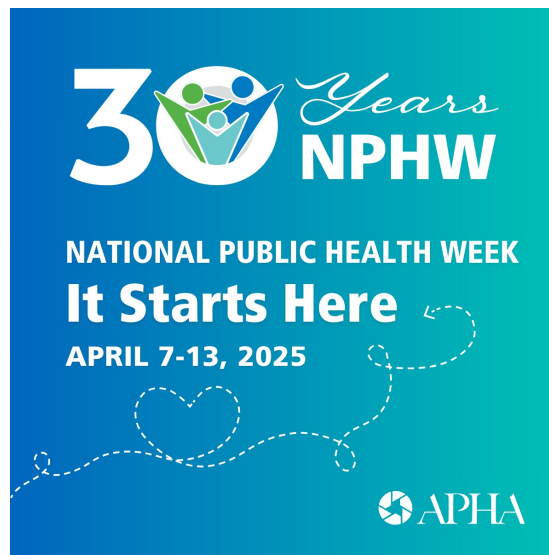
Melanie, K. B., Garr, K., **LaRose, J. G., Hung, S.**, Brewer, A., Mendoza, A., Blincoe, J., Tatum, K. L., Smith, D. I, Robinson, A., Sabo, R., & Brickhouse. T. (March 27, 2025). *Pilot of a Community-Participatory School-Based Hydration Intervention to Address Water Inequity in Elementary Schools*. Paper presented at the 46th Annual Meeting of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, San Francisco, CA.

Student Spotlight



Stacie Lefeavers and Julie Russo will be defending their dissertations next month!
Wishing them all the best as they wrap up their PhDs!

National Public Health Week



National Public Health Week is coming April 7-13. Find the full schedule of events on the School of Public Health website below.

[View Schedule](#)

Recent Publications

Dr. Richard Brown:

Brown R, Wages NA, Liu L, Sutton AL, Poklepovic AS. Understanding the Role of Patient-Reported Outcomes for Decision-Making in Early-Phase Dose-Finding Clinical Trials. *Current Oncology*. 2025; 32(3):176.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/curroncol32030176>

Hillen, M., Bongardt, D., Bowman, B., Brown, R.F., Branje, S., Chorney, J., Donker, M.H., Ejbye-Ernst, P., Sanne Geeraerts Danielle., Van der Giessen, S.G.D., Humphris, G., Larsen, H., Philpot, R., Portell, M., Yuan, S., van der Veen, C. 2024 Guidelines for reporting research using systematic coding of observed human behaviour (SCOB) <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11135-024-01969-9>

Hillen MA, Mitchell KR, Schouten BC, Cyrus JW, Brown RF, Pieterse AH. Systematic review of observational coding systems to assess patient-healthcare professional interactions. *Patient Educ Couns*. 2025 Feb 27;135:108718. doi: 10.1016/j.pec.2025.108718. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40037145. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40037145/>

Dr. Kellie Carlyle and Julie Russo:

Guidry, J. P. D., Naavaal, S., Laestadius, L. I., Miller, C. A., Zurlo, G., Burton, C.

W., ... Perrin, P. B. (2024). Health, beliefs, and faith: HPV vaccine uptake intent among Catholic, Evangelical, and mainline protestant parents. *Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics*, 20(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/21645515.2024.2425142>

Dr. Sunny Jung Kim:

Sunny Jung Kim, Kendall Fugate-Laurs, Jeremy Barsell, Elizabeth K Do, Rashelle B Hayes, Bernard F Fuemmeler, Tobacco Susceptibility and Use Among Rural Adolescents: The Role of Tobacco Marketing Exposure and Screen Media Use, Nicotine & Tobacco Research, 2024; ntae309, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ntr/ntae309>

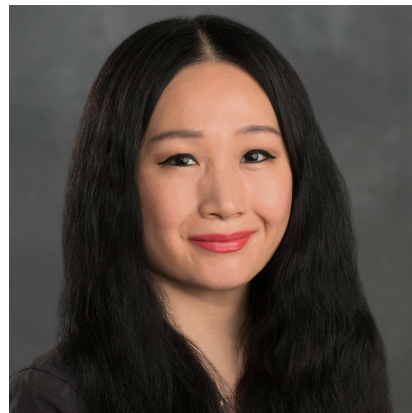
Dr. Jessica LaRose:

Tatum KL, Garr K, Adams EL, et al. Associations between parent and adolescent weight outcomes within two parent approaches to family-based adolescent obesity treatment: Secondary analyses from the TEENS+ pilot trial. *Pediatric Obesity*. 2025; 20(3):e13198. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijpo.13198>

Dr. Alex Lucas:

Costa, J.V., Lucas, A.R., Mihalko, S.L. *et al.* Feasibility and preliminary efficacy of a physical activity intervention in adults with lymphoma undergoing treatment. *Pilot Feasibility Stud* 11, 6 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40814-024-01580-7>

SBS in the News



Chatbots, avatars and more: VCU researchers delve into AI's potential in public health

Dr. Sunny Jung Kim discusses the use of AI technologies in patient communication

**Read the
story**



Richmond Magazine featured the VA-ACCERT Center, a new project led by MPIs Drs. Jessica LaRose, Bernard Fuemmeler, and Brynn Sheehan.

[Read the story](#)

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, April 2nd 12:00-1:00pm

Grant Writing Workshop Series: Setting the Stage for Community Engaged Research
Wright Center for Clinical and Translational Research
[Register here](#)

Thursday, April 3rd 9:00am-3:30pm

Gordon Ginder Innovations in Cancer Symposium
Dewey Gottwald Center
[Register here](#)

Friday, April 11th 11:30am-5:00pm

33rd Annual WISDM Leadership Conference
Larrick Student Center
[More info here](#)

Wednesday, April 23rd 9:30am-1:00pm

28th Annual Graduate Research Symposium
University Student Commons
[More info here](#)

Friday, May 9th 12:00-3:00pm

SOPH Commencement
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

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Social and Behavioral Sciences

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