**UB Healthy Behavior Projects. Initial list, not complete**

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| **School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences**  **"Leonard Epstein,** Chief, Behavioral Medicine" <lhenet@buffalo.edu> |
| **Treating Overweight Youth: A Family Based Approach In Primary Care**  <https://ubir.buffalo.edu/xmlui/handle/10477/1103>  Teresa Quattrin  The prevalence of overweight has increased over the past 10 years from 7.2% to 10.5% in 2-5 year old youth. Fifty-two % of children 3-5 years of age with BMI >95th percentile are obese as adults. Moreover the risk for a child to become an obese adult increases from 24% if neither parent is obese to 62% if one parent is obese. The 2-5 year old child is largely under parental control with parents modeling eating and activity habits and shaping the shared home environment. Despite the alarming increase in prevalence of pediatric overweight, there are no empirically validated treatments demonstrating efficacy in young overweight children and in primary care. The goal of this study is to test in primary care the efficacy of an innovative Family-based Intervention program for children aged 2-5 years with BMI >85th percentile and one obese parent. We hypothesize that the Intervention will lead to the child's weight loss/maintenance with reduction in % BMI overweight, and to parental weight loss. We are proposing to adapt our well-validated childhood weight control program developed in a specialized setting to be delivered in three large pediatric practices where the child is receiving his/her primary care. In this prospective randomized controlled 24-month study (12 month intervention and 12 month maintenance), 108 children (36/practice) with a BMI > 85th percentile and a parent with BMI >30 Kg/m2 will be assigned in equal numbers to an Intervention or Information Control group. The Intervention group will target both the child and the obese parent for weight control, dietary, activity and behavioral changes. The parent in the Intervention group will receive extensive teaching on behavioral modification methods leading to healthy habits (self-monitoring, praising, rewarding, contingency management, modeling, stimulus control). The Information Control group will focus only on child's weight control and the parent will receive only education relative to the child's dietary intake and activity. The pediatricians in the practice will play a key role in the identification and follow-up of study participants throughout the program. This study is an important step towards translating empirically validated treatments to usual practice and providing pediatricians with effective tools that may be used to treat obesity in clinical practice. Project Narrative This project addresses the problem of overweight in young children. We propose to treat concurrently overweight children and their parents in a family-based behavioral intervention program to be delivered in primary care. This study is an important step towards providing pediatricians with effective tools to treat overweight in primary care. |
| **Translating Habituation Research to Interventions for Pediatric Obesity**  <https://ubir.buffalo.edu/xmlui/handle/10477/1092>  Leonard Epstein  In a series of studies we have shown that children and adults habituate, or show a gradual reduction in responding, to repeated presentations of olfactory, gustatory, or the combination of olfactory and gustatory food cues. The rate of habituation is inversely related to energy intake in a meal, and obese children and adults habituate slower than leaner peers and consume more food. Habituation is a basic form of learning that is observed in many response systems. We believe that habituation is an important process that mediates food regulation during a meal and across meals. However, there has been no research in children that translates basic research on habituation to food into clinical interventions. This center grant is a systematic attempt to translate basic research from our laboratory on habituation to food into effective clinical interventions for overweight children. In the first phase (Years 01-02) we will implement a series of laboratory studies to assess the effects of stimulus specificity and variety, and the simultaneous reduction of variety for high energy density foods while increasing the variety of low energy density foods on short (within meal) and long-term (across meal) habituation. The second phase (Years 02-03) is designed to implement a series of field studies that will extend basic research from the first phase as well as define the optimal interval for reducing variety to facilitate long-term habituation to high energy density foods in the natural environment. The third phase (Years 04-05) is designed to develop and pilot test a family-based behavioral intervention for children that incorporates findings from Phase 2 into a clinical intervention. RELEVANCE Habituation is a theoretically rich behavioral science area that is important to satiation and energy intake regulation. The proposed research will translate research on habituation to clinical interventions for overweight youth in a hierarchical structure, progressing from laboratory studies to controlled field studies to the development of clinical interventions. The translation of this basic science may have important implications for the treatment of pediatric obesity. |
| **Non-Shared Environments and Discordance of Obesity in Adolescent Siblings**  <https://ubir.buffalo.edu/xmlui/handle/10477/1076>  James N. Roemmich, Leonard Epstein (became PI after initial PI moved from UB)  The prevalence of overweight/obesity in youth has increased 3-fold, so it is important to understand the mechanisms of why so many adolescents are becoming overweight. Normal weight youth may either better regulate energy intake and expenditure in the face of obesigenic experiences or experience fewer obesigenic pressures from social (parent and peer) influences. The discordant sibling methodology controls for an average of 50 percent of genetic variability and is an ideal design for determining whether normal weight and overweight/obese siblings experience non-shared behavioral responsivity and/or exposures to obesigenic environments. If a putative non-shared experience is associated with discordance in obesity then variability in the experience within siblings will be large relative to between families. This research studies the energy balance behaviors (usual eating, physical activity, sedentary) of discordant siblings and key putative non-shared experiences contributing to sibling differences in weight behaviors and thus their discordance in adiposity. Non-shared eating behaviors are likely primary risk factors for the discordance in sibling adiposity. Thus, one set of risk factors to be studied is differential sibling responsiveness to eating paradigms that test increased sensitivity to external eating cues and reduced sensitivity to internal satiety cues. Non-shared experiences affecting energy balance behaviors occur within the context of social influences. Thus, the second set of risk factors to be tested is social influences on eating and activity that occur within (parent influences on eating and activity, via questionnaires) and outside (peer influences on eating via dietary recalls and on physical activity via ecological momentary analysis) the family. 48 same- sex biologic adolescent sibling pairs (24 pairs of boys and girls, age 13 to 17 years) will be studied with an equal number of pairs (n=12) within each sex consisting of a younger-normal weight (BMI <70th percentile) and an older-overweight/obese (BMI > 85th percentile) adolescent, or of a younger-overweight/obese and an older- normal weight adolescent. Given the unique developmental stage of adolescence, their exposure to obesigenic experiences and responsivity to those experiences are likely different than for children or adults, but there are few experimental studies of the mechanisms of obesity in adolescents. The specific aims are to use intraclass correlations to determine adolescent discordant sibling resemblances for energy balance behaviors (Aims: 1a. usual eating, 1b. physical activity, 1c. sedentary behaviors), non-shared eating experiences (Aims: 2a. increased eating cue responsivity, 2b. reduced internal satiety cue sensitivity), and non-shared social influences on eating and activity within (Aim 3a. parent influences) and outside (Aim 3b. peer influences) of the family. This research will provide important information on the mechanisms of adolescent obesity and why youth are becoming overweight in our obesigenic environment. PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE: Overweight adolescents' exposure and responsivity to obesigenic experiences are likely different than for normal weight adolescents and identification of these experiences is necessary to understand the mechanisms of obesity. Comparing normal weight and overweight youth from different families provides information on potential between family differences, but does not provide information regarding non-shared experiences that explain why one sibling in the family is overweight. This research will employ detailed behavioral phenotyping of adiposity-discordant sibling pair responses to obesigenic experiences to provide important data for understanding which experiences are not shared within discordant siblings. |
| **Experimental analysis of price changes and Food purchases in obese and lean mothers**  <https://ubir.buffalo.edu/xmlui/handle/10477/1039>  Leonard Epstein  We recently found taxing less healthy (high calorie for nutrient) foods reduced energy intake and dietary fat purchased, and increased protein purchased, while subsidizing healthier foods (low calorie for nutrient) increased energy purchased with no change in distribution of macronutrients purchased. The goal of this application is to study whether income, body mass index (BMI), relative reinforcing value of food (RRV) and impulsivity moderate the effects of prices on energy and macronutrients purchased and diet quality in a large sample of 225 ethnically and economically diverse adults. Participants will complete five shopping sessions that vary whether selected snack foods are taxed by +12.5 and +25%, or fruits and vegetables and non- sweetened water are subsidized by -12.5% and -25% in comparison to shopping at reference prices. Specific Aim 1 will evaluate the effect of price changes on energy and macronutrients purchased, with the prediction that taxes will reduce energy and dietary fat purchased and improve diet quality, while subsidies will increase fruits and vegetables and energy purchased. Specific Aim 2 will assess income as a moderator of food purchases, with the prediction that lower income families will be more sensitive to taxes, and show greater reduction in energy and fat purchased and greater improvement in diet quality when these foods are taxed than higher income families. We predict that lower income families will be more responsive to subsidies for healthier foods. Specific Aim 3 will assess BMI as a moderator of food purchases, with the prediction that higher BMI participants will be less sensitive to taxes, and show less reduction in energy and fat purchased and greater improvement in diet quality when these foods are taxed than lower BMI participants. Lower BMI participants will be more responsive to subsidies in purchasing more fruits and vegetables. Specific Aim 4 will test RRV as a moderator of food purchases with the prediction that participants with greater RRV for less healthy items will be less responsive to effects of taxes on reducing energy and fat purchasing and improving diet quality, and conversely, those who have greater RRV for healthier foods will show a reduction in energy and fat purchased and improvement in diet quality as subsidies for fruits and vegetables and non-sweetened water are increased. Specific Aim 5 will assess impulsivity as a moderator of food purchases with the prediction that more impulsive participants will be less responsive to effects of taxes on reducing energy and fat purchasing and improving diet quality, and participants who find food reinforcing and are impulsive will show the smallest reductions in purchases of energy and fat and improvements in diet quality when snack foods are taxed. Conversely, those who are less impulsive will be more likely to show an increase in purchases of fruits and vegetables or non-sweetened water when the prices of fruits and vegetables and non-sweetened water are subsidized. PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE: Project Narrative The proposed research will assess whether income, body mass index, the reinforcing value of food and behavioral impulsivity, moderate the influence of changing prices on energy intake, macronutrients purchased and diet quality. Examining the effects of individual difference factors that influence the effectiveness of price interventions to influence food purchasing will provide insight into public policy decisions that can use taxes or subsidies to influence population health. |
| **The influence of pricing and nutrient profiling on food purchases**  <http://maps.cancer.gov/overview/DCCPSGrants/abstract.jsp?applId=8446973&term=CA167091>  Leonard Epstein  Manipulating food prices is one of the most powerful ways to modify food purchasing. An alternative approach is by point of purchase nutrition information using nutrient profiling. The goal of this grant is to assess the independent and combined effects of 1) 25% taxes and subsidies on the least and most nutritious foods based on their nutrient profiles and 2) point of purchase nutrient profiling on nutrient density, energy, energy density and specific nutrients of foods purchased. The study will be undertaken in a sample of ethnically and income diverse adults who do the food shopping for their families. A 2 x 2 factorial design will be used to randomize 800 shoppers to 1) a control arm with usual nutrition information, 2) nutrient profiling information only on all foods in the grocery store, 3) taxes on the 20% lowest nutritional value foods plus subsidies on the 20% highest nutritional value foods only, and 4) nutrient profiling plus the differential taxes and subsidies. Nutrient profiling will be based on NuVal, a comprehensive nutrient profiling system that scores foods on a 1-100 scale based on an algorithm that takes in to account positive (fiber, vitamins, minerals, Omega 3 fatty acids, etc.) and negative aspects of food (trans fat, salt, sugar, etc,) as well as factors such as protein and fat quality, energy density, and glycemic load. NuVal scores predict health outcomes, including all-cause mortality, in a cohort study of 100,000 people, with higher scores (better nutritional value) associated with lower risk for a variety of diseases. Specific Ai 1 will assess the main and interactive effects of point of purchase nutrient profiling and price changes on average nutrient density/100 kcal of all foods purchased, and Specific Aim 1a will assess the main and interactive effects of nutrient profiling and/or price changes on total energy and energy density of foods purchased, average NuVal scores and average values of specific nutrients including fiber, added sugar, saturated fat and sodium, and the main and interactive effects on average NuVal scores and macronutrient composition of purchased foods. Specific Aim 2 will assess the main and interactive effects of nutrient profiling and/or price changes on cost to improve nutrient density/100 kcal. Specific Aim 3 will assess the whether income, body mass index or dietary restraint moderate the effect of nutrient profiling and price changes on nutrient density/100 kcal. |
| **Habituation to food as a risk factor for pediatric obesity**  \*\*not actual site\*\* <http://scibite.com/site/library/2013_5/6/0/8464082.html>  Leonard Epstein  Cross sectional data have shown slower habituation is related to greater energy intake, and habituation is slower for overweight/obese compared to leaner youth, but it is not known whether this is a result of being overweight, or whether slower habituation is a risk factor for weight gain. The goal of this application is to study individual differences in reflexive, physiological (salivation) and behavioral (responding for food) habituation as risk factors for alterations in zBMI and body fat over a three year period in 200, 8 to 10 year-old non-overweight children. This application will provide the first test of the hypothesis that slow habituation to food is a risk factor for increases in zBMI in non-overweight youth. |

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| **School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences**  "**Laurene Tumiel-Berhalter**, Department of Family Medicine " <tumiel@buffalo.edu> |
| **UB Clinical Research Fellowship in Health Disparity** <http://fammed.buffalo.edu/fellow.html>  Laurene Tumiel-Berhalter  A two or three year NRSA fellowship for Family Physicians, Internists and Pediatricians. The fellowship, based here at UB's Primary Care Research Institute (PCRI) helps you acquire the skills needed to become qualified for a NIH career-development award within 3 years.  You are able to train while maintaining clinical competency, working 40 hours a week in research and training while spending one to two half days providing patient care. PCRI provides your infrastructure. The institute is home to a diverse agenda of clinical, community and health services research. We pride ourselves on excellence and promoting individual grown to achieve group success. |
| **Cancer Prevention among Urban Poor with Complex Chronic Conditions**  <http://www.research.buffalo.edu/ovpr/arra/awards.cfm?a=PN64448>  Laurene Tumiel-Berhalter  Chronic disease is a major contributor to health disparities, and complex chronic disease (multiple chronic conditions requiring multiple providers) is increasingly common. Literature suggests that individuals with chronic disease receive less preventive cancer screening than individuals without a chronic disease, but little research is available to assess the incorporation of preventive cancer screening among patients with complex chronic disease (CCD). For minority populations with limited resources and disproportionate rates of some chronic conditions, this may contribute to poorer outcomes and greater disparities. This study will build upon a well established partnership of university and community collaborators to assess barriers to and motivators for preventive cancer screening and will design a patient-driven intervention to incorporate cancer screening into chronic disease management. The Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) team will be jointly led by 2 PIs, one from the community and one from a university. A CBPR Steering Committee will include 4 researchers from a School of Medicine, a School of Public Health, and a Cancer Research Institute, 2 community-based organizations, 2 primary care practices serving predominantly minority low- income patients, and a Patient Action Team of patients with CCD. The study aims are to: (1) conduct a cross-sectional study to describe cancer prevention screening among patients with CCD; (2) design a pilot cancer-prevention intervention with a Patient Action Team (composed of patients with CCD) based on patient-reported factors that enable or hinder cancer prevention screening among adults with CCD in low- income, minority communities; and (3) conduct a pilot cancer-prevention intervention among patients with CCD in preparation for a larger CBPR Roll study. Specifically, this study will develop a registry of patients with complex chronic disease from 2 community medical practices. The registry will be used to: (a) conduct a descriptive cross-sectional study to explore disparities in cancer prevention screening (Aim 1); (b) recruit patients with CCD to serve on a Patient Action Team to design an intervention (Aim 2); and (c) recruit patients with CCD to pilot test the patient-centered intervention (Aim 3). RELEVANCE (See instructions): The prevalence of adults with multiple chronic diseases is increasing. This proposal will establish a university-community partnership to engage patients with complex chronic disease living in predominately minority low-income communities to collaborate in developing an intervention to improve cancer prevention screening. The intervention will be based on patient perceptions of need, priority, barriers, and motivators to include preventive cancer screening as part of their patient-centered care regimen. |

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| **School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences**  "**Werner Ceusters** at CoE" <ceusters@buffalo.edu> |
| **OPMQoL: an ontology for pain and related disability, mental health and quality of life**  -- (<http://www.referent-tracking.com/RTU/?page=projects.phtml>)  Werner Ceusters  The goal of this project is to obtain better insight into the complexity of pain disorders, specifically concerning the assessment of different pain types as well as pain-related disablement and its association with mental health and quality of life. This will be achieved by developing an ontology which will then be used to integrate five existing datasets that broadly encompass the major types of pain (orofacial pains, temporomandibular disorder pain, headache) recognized to occur in the oral and associated regions and incorporating a broad array of measures consistent with a biopsychosocial perspective regarding pain.  The datasets cover the same domain, but are distinct in various respects:  (1) some variables are identical across datasets, others involving, for instance, somatization, depression and anxiety, are different because measured with distinct instruments;  (2) the data exhibit different levels of granularity;  (3) because of their distinct origins (US, UK, Sweden, Israel, and Germany), the datasets incorporate cultural influences related to pain report that have an impact on the comparability of the data sets, despite the use of common instruments.  The ontology will make it possible to describe the datasets in a uniform and formal way, and be general enough to include other datasets in the same domain once they become available.  The main clinical question that we will be able to answer by merging these datasets is how patho-anatomy and pathophysiology – in this case in the context of TMD and orofacial pains - have an impact on pain-related disablement and quality of life. Because the ontology will provide a formal representation of widely used assessment instruments in the domain of mental health, its applicability will exceed by far the more narrow domain that is covered in the proposed project for practical reasons.  The ontology will be built following the widely accepted and in Nature published principles adhered to in the Open Biomedical Ontology Foundry (OBO-Foundry, using Basic Formal Ontology (BFO), and Referent Tracking (RT) as generic semantic technologies. By working in collaboration with The International RDC/TMD Consortium Network, and the Orofacial Pain Special Interest Group of the International Association for the Study of Pain, this ontology is likely to become a standard in the domain. |

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| **School of Public Health and Health Professions**  “**R. Lorraine Collins**, Associate Dean for Research, School of Public Health and Health Professions, Professor, Department of Community Health and Health” <[lcollins@buffalo.edu](mailto:lcollins@buffalo.edu)> |
| ?? “**NIDA grant to develop and study a smartphone app that promotes exercise as a positive alternative to marijuana use”**  <http://www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/research/news.host.html/content/shared/university/news/ub-reporter-articles/stories/2013/marijuana_app.detail.html>  R. Lorraine Collins  UB has been awarded a $715,500 National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) grant to develop and study a smartphone app that promotes exercise as a positive alternative to marijuana use. As part of the study, researchers also will test the feasibility and review the effects of a four-week intervention for the individuals being studied that includes personalized feedback about marijuana use and participation in four in-person counseling sessions focused on decreasing marijuana intake |

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| **School of Public Health and Health Professions**  "**Gary Giovino**, Chair, Community Health and Health Behavior" <ggiovino@buffalo.edu> |
| **International Tobacco Control Policy Evaluation Project**  <http://roswellitc.com/>  No principal investigator listed  The International Tobacco Control evaluates the psychosocial and behavioral effects of national-level tobacco control policies throughout the world. The project follows thousands of adult smokers over multiple years and in their respective countries to monitor the changes of national-level tobacco policies according to the recommendations of the first and currently only international treaty on health, the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC.) |

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| **School of Public Health and Health Professions**  "**Youfa Wang**, Chair, Social and Preventive Medicine" <youfawan@buffalo.edu> |
| **Multilevel Systems-oriented Childhood Obesity Study In China**  <http://projectreporter.nih.gov/project_info_description.cfm?aid=8481566&icde=19181575&ddparam=&ddvalue=&ddsub=&cr=3&csb=default&cs=ASC>  Youfa Wang  Innovative and culturally appropriate multilevel policy and environmental interventions are greatly needed to address the obesity epidemic in high-risk populations. However, the vast majority of intervention strategies have focused on selected targets and approaches, e.g., educating consumers about healthy food choices, while in many settings reduced access to healthy food choices greatly limits impact. MOPS will test an innovative multi-level intervention, which directly addresses the complex systems associated with childhood eating behaviors and adiposity. Our overarching goal is to develop and evaluate a community based obesity prevention program, which operates at multiple levels of an urban food system (policy, wholesaler, corner stores, carryout, household, individual; in Baltimore, MD), and will improve the healthy food supply chain to increase affordability, availability, purchasing and consumption of healthy foods within low income minority neighborhoods. Our proposed research will include stakeholders/ partners at different levels, e.g., the policy, wholesaler, retailer, adult caregiver, and individual child levels, and then develop, implement, and assess a two year multi-level systems-based child obesity prevention strategy targeting minority and low income children (predominantly AA). Thirty low-income, predominantly AA geographic zones will be identified ("healthy eating zones"). Half of these zones will be randomized to intervention, while the other half will be control. Within each intervention zone we will work with at least 5 small food stores and prepared food sources to increase access to healthy foods through wholesaler discounts, display point of purchase promotional materials, and provide nutrition and food preparation education targeting youth and caregivers. We will work with local policymakers to institutionalize and sustain these changes. The project will evaluate the impact of the program on: a) healthy food pricing and availability, b) low income African American adult food purchasing and preparation, and c) low-income African American youth diet, and associated psychosocial factors. The proposed intervention trial directly addresses the RFA by utilizing a systems-based approach to test and evaluate structural interventions at multiple levels. |
| **Causes and Interventions for Childhood Obesity: Innovative Systems Analysis**  <http://projectreporter.nih.gov/project_info_description.cfm?aid=8479386&icde=19181575&ddparam=&ddvalue=&ddsub=&cr=1&csb=default&cs=ASC>  Youfa Wang  Causes and Interventions for Childhood Obesity: Innovative Systems Analysis Obesity has become a public health crisis in the United States. Obesity is believed as the result of a complex interplay between biological, behavioral, cultural, social, environmental and economic dynamics operating at multiple levels. Studying such complex dynamics is a challenge using traditional analytical approaches. Our proposed project aimed to meet several urgent needs in the field, including both empirical results and methodological issues. Our project will address several of the objectives specified in several recent NIH RFA and PAR including PAR-08-224 "Using Systems Science Methodologies to Protect and Improve Population Health (R21)." Our central hypothesis is that the determinants of individuals' energy balance related behaviors (EBRB) and body weight outcomes involve complex, dynamic processes including various feedback loops across multi-level factors. We have four specific aims (analysis in Aim 1 prepares for Aims 2-3; and system models developed in Aims 2-3 will be used in Aim 4): Aim 1: Using innovative, integrated conceptual framework and multilevel statistical analysis approaches, to examine the influences and interactions between individual, family and environmental factors on childhood obesity. Aim 2: Using agent-based models (ABM) to test simple rules (e.g., how children may interact with their social and built environments) that help explain individuals' EBRB and obesity risk and the changes in population level rates of these outcomes. Aim 3: To determine the key contextual drivers of the childhood obesity epidemic at the population level (i.e., time trends), using a novel combination of systems analysis methods and nationally representative data sets linked with contextual measures. This will help develop and calibrate systems dynamics models (SDM) that can replicate the time-course of the obesity epidemic and help project future obesity trends and impact of intervention options. Aim 4: To identify and characterize promising intervention/policy strategies based our results of aims 1-3 and those in the literature, taking into account non- linearities, feedback loops and recursive causal relations; and to project/simulate impacts of these strategies on obesity rates using SDM and ABM models developed and calibrated in Aims 2-3. We will conduct sensitivity analyses based on various specifications of models. Our systematic analysis will be conducted using a set of innovative, sophisticated methods including multilevel models (MLM) and systems analysis models for analyses of empirical and simulation data. Data from national surveys including cohort studies linked with contextual measures from other data sources will be used. Our multidisciplinary team has extensive related experiences. Our methodological products will benefit future studies, and our empirical findings will help clarify several controversies surrounding the causes of childhood obesity epidemic and help guide future interventions. PUBLIC HEALTH RELEVANCE: Using integrated conceptual framework, innovative statistical analysis approaches including systems analysis models, national survey data sets and contextual measures we will study the influences and interactions between individual and environmental factors on childhood obesity, the key drivers of the US childhood obesity epidemic. We will also project the impacts of several childhood obesity intervention strategies. |
| **Understanding Disparities In Obesity and Its Comorbidities In the U.S.**  <http://projectreporter.nih.gov/project_info_description.cfm?projectnumber=1R01DK081335-01A1>  Youfa Wang  The study is a systematic investigation to understand the individual-, family-, and community-level causes of ethnic/SES disparities in obesity and its comorbidities including type 2 diabetes and hypertension in the U.S. using an interdisciplinary approach. |
| **Resemblance between child & parental eating, physical activity & obesity patterns**  --  Youfa Wang  To examine the resemblances between American children’s and their parents’ eating and physical activity patterns as well as their weight status and the influence of individual-, household-, and environmental- factors on the associations. |
| **Influences of prenatal nutrition, genetics, childhood growth trajectory, sexual maturation, and their interactions on metabolic outcomes during puberty: A twin study**  --  Youfa Wang  To examine how genetics, prenatal factors, growth trajectory, sexual maturation, and environmental factors (including dietary intake) may interact and affect the target health outcomes (eg, adiposity, insulin resistance, elevated blood pressure) based on existing and new follow-up data from a large population-based cohort including twins in China. |

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| **School of Nursing**  "**Marsha Lewis**, Dean School of Nursing" <UBNursingDean@buffalo.edu> |
| **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Advanced Nursing Education training grant**  -- ?? <http://www.buffalo.edu/content/shared/university/news/news-center-releases/2013/08/009.html>  Nancy Campbell-Heider  The purpose of the ANE Program is to provide Federal funding for projects that support the enhancement of advanced nursing education and practice. ANE grants support programs for registered nurses who are preparing to become nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists, nurse administrators, nurse educators, public health nurses, and other specialties requiring advanced education. (<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/nursing/grants/ane.html>) |

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| **School of Nursing**  "**Laura Anderson**, School of Nursing" <lauraand@buffalo.edu> |
| **PULSE Healthy Weight Research Team**  <http://curca.buffalo.edu/students/research-opps.php?rid=187&title=The+PULSE+Healthy+Weight+Research+Team>  ?? Laura Anderson  The PULSE Healthy Weight Research Team seeks to collaborate with schools and community agencies in order to help children, teens, and family members achieve improved physical and mental health. We neither promote nor utilize terminology associated with traditional, restrictive dieting. Our biopsychosocial and evidence-based approach emphasizes health and longevity from the inside out. We strive to promote healthy weight and wellness through targeting intrapersonal, interpersonal, and environmental variables. Our ultimate objective is the promotion of healthy weight and behavioral health among individuals who may be overweight, obese, and/or at-risk for lifestyle-related disease. |

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| **Research Institute on Addictions**  "**Kenneth Leonard**, Director, Research Institute on Addictions" <kleonard@buffalo.edu> |
| **Proximal Effects of Marijuana in Understanding Intimate Partner Violence**  <http://www.buffalo.edu/ria/research/research_2/disc_ria_effects.host.html/content/shared/www/ria/research/researc_projects/current_research/pem.html>  Maria Testa  The acute effects of marijuana use within couples will be examined as a way of understanding the potential role of marijuana in understanding partner aggression, both immediately after use, and as it develops over time.  Although marijuana is commonly believed to suppress aggression, surveys consistently reveal positive associations between marijuana use and perpetration of intimate partner violence. However, it is not known whether on a proximal, event level marijuana use results in affective, cognitive, or behavioral effects consistent with partner aggression. The current study addresses this gap with a 30 day, ecological momentary assessment (EMA) study of marijuana use and couple functioning in a sample of young couples in which one or both partners use marijuana. Couples will be followed for one year, to determine whether marijuana use or its immediate consequence influence relationship functioning and stability over time. |
| **Men’s Alcohol Use and Perpetration of Sexual Aggression**  <http://www.buffalo.edu/ria/research/research_2/disc_ria_effects.host.html/content/shared/www/ria/research/researc_projects/current_research/maupsa.html>  Maria Testa (Kenneth Leonard, Kathleen Parks)  The role of college men’s alcohol use in sexual aggression perpetration will be examined using 1) a prospective survey study over five semesters and 2) a 56-day daily report study considering whether drinking episodes increase the odds of subsequent sexual aggression.  In this project, Dr. Testa and colleagues will consider the impact of men’s alcohol consumption on their perpetration of sexual aggression. Two studies of college freshman males are being conducted following recruitment of 1,850 participants from two entering cohorts of male freshmen. In the first study, web-based, prospective survey methods will be used to examine whether the frequency of heavy episodic drinking predicts subsequent sexual aggression over the first five semesters of college. In a second study, a subsample of 324 men will make eight weeks of daily reports on drinking and sexual behavior using interactive voice response (IVR) technology. It is hypothesized that the relationship between alcohol use and sexual aggression is moderated by several individual differences variables, such as sex-related alcohol expectancies, hostile masculinity, and impersonal sexuality. These moderators will be considered both at the distal, prospective level and also at the proximal, daily level. Findings from the two studies are expected to provide significant new knowledge about the role of alcohol in men’s perpetration of sexual aggression and aid in the development of efficacious sexual aggression prevention programs. |
| **Study of Health and Adult Relationship Experiences**  <http://www.buffalo.edu/ria/research/research_2/disc_ria_pathways.host.html/content/shared/www/ria/research/researc_projects/current_research/share.html>  Kenneth Leonard  Researchers are examining the relationship between heavy drinking, impulsivity and aggression in married couples.  In this study, Dr. Leonard is examining heavy drinking, cognitive functioning, and marital satisfaction and conflict in 300 couples over a three-year time period. Couples in which the husband, wife, both, or neither are frequent heavy drinkers will be recruited. Researchers will test whether self-regulation skills, in conjunction with heavy drinking, smoking, and other health issues, influence marital satisfaction, marital stability, and marital conflict. |
| **Alcohol and Couples Communication**  <http://www.buffalo.edu/ria/research/research_2/disc_ria_effects.host.html/content/shared/www/ria/research/researc_projects/current_research/acc.html>  Maria Testa  Two studies considered the acute effects of alcohol use within couples on conflict and aggression: 1) an experimental alcohol administration study using a conflict resolution paradigm and 2) a 56-day daily diary study examining whether drinking episodes increase the odds of subsequent partner aggression.  In this study, Dr. Testa is investigating whether acute alcohol consumption is a causal factor in episodes of relationship conflict and aggression among young married and cohabiting couples. First, an experimental study will examine the effects of alcohol - administered independently to male and female partners - on communication behaviors and verbal aggression within a conflict resolution paradigm. Second, a daily diary study conducted over eight weeks will be used to determine if the likelihood of relationship conflict or aggression occurring on a given day is increased when either the man, the woman, or both have consumed alcohol earlier that day. This study is unique in that it considers women's drinking, in addition to men's drinking, as a potential contributor to relationship conflict and aggression; the daily diary study promises to be the first to examine daily alcohol-relationship conflict in a non-clinical sample, thereby addressing the importance of alcohol in naturally occurring relationship conflict; and lastly, both studies will consider the role of potential moderating variables, including propensity toward aggression, behavioral self-control and alcohol expectancies. This research is expected to provide important insight into the causal mechanisms underlying the alcohol-intimate partner aggression relationship. |
| **Research Training on Alcohol Etiology and Treatment**  <http://www.buffalo.edu/ria/research/research_2/disc_ria_treatment.host.html/content/shared/www/ria/research/researc_projects/current_research/rtaet.html>  Kenneth Leonard  This grant funds a postdoctoral training program for scientists planning a career in addictions research.  The goal of the program, established in 2000, is to provide specialized postdoctoral training to scientists in preparation for conducting addictions research. The program provides quality research training on (1) the etiology and course of alcohol use and misuse and (2) treatment for alcohol use disorders. Trainees are assigned a specific preceptor, based on their research interests. The preceptor provides training in conceptualization, methodology, and ethics of research in the trainee’s primary area of study. The program also includes several seminar components, including Foundations of Interdisciplinary Alcohol Research, Current Alcohol Research (including a monthly “journal club”), Grant Writing, and Professional Issues and Career Development. |

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| **School of Social Work**  "**Thomas H. Nochajski**, School of Social Work" <thn@buffalo.edu> |
| **Initiation and Continuation of Drinking and Driving Behavior**  <http://projectreporter.nih.gov/project_info_description.cfm?aid=7631396&icde=0>  CO-PIs: William F. Wieczorek, Thomas H. Nochajski  Drinking and driving continues to be a major public health and traffic safety problem, despite decades of efforts to reduce its consequences. The reductions in alcohol-related traffic fatalities in the early 1990s associated with the raising of the legal drinking age to 21 and the social and political impacts of the anti-drunk driving movement (e.g., Mothers Against Drunk Driving and Remove Intoxicated Drivers) have not been sustained, a pattern that is true in the U.S and many other countries. Drinking and driving research has focused mainly on issues of deterrence, prevention, and other interventions, to the detriment of research on complex models and etiology. Complex models that include psychological, personality, deterrence, substance abuse, family, and neighborhood measures are necessary to identify additional avenues for interventions. Otherwise, efforts to further reduce drinking and driving behaviors and consequences will be of limited effectiveness. The sample for this study was originally recruited for an earlier study of drinking, drug use and criminal behavior. Three waves of data were collected from 625 young men during the transition period from late adolescence to early adulthood (ages 16-22). The subjects will be re-interviewed by telephone to provide a 10-year wave-4 follow-up. The project also will examine topics associated with neighborhood impacts on behavior, including alternative geospatial measures. The specific aims are: 1) To develop models of the initiation of drinking-driving behavior. Data from multiple assessment domains during the critical period of initializing drinking-driving behavior will be used to develop models, using survival analysis, logistic regression, and SEM for initiation and early continuation. Specific hypotheses and models suggested by the drinking-driving and broader criminological/developmental literature will be examined (e.g., drinking and driving predicted by peer, family, and individual factors). 2) To develop long-term prospective models of continued drinking-driving behavior. There are no major prospective studies of drinking-driving available in the current literature. We will examine whether the same or different factors account for the long-term continuation of drinking and driving. How do the trajectories change for these longer-term outcomes? A combined theoretical model of initiation and continuation will be developed based on the results from aims 1 and 2. 3) To examine the impact of various geospatial methods of aggregating point data (e.g., alcohol outlets) into geographic units for use in multilevel and individual models of drinking and driving. Contextual data will be integrated into aims 1 and 2 in multilevel models. However, little is known about the impact of methods of aggregation of context data in these models. The study will compare the impact of four different methods of aggregating point data into geographic units. |

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| **Graduate School of Education**  "**Catherine P. Cook-Cottone**, Graduate School of Education" <cpcook@buffalo.edu>  **Advanced certificate in Counseling for Wellness** |

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| **Graduate School of Education**  "**Amanda Nickerson**, Director, Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention, GSE" <nickersa@buffalo.edu> |
| **Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention**  <http://gse.buffalo.edu/alberticenter>  Director- Amanda Nickerson  -- |

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| **Graduate School of Education**  "**Anne Perrault,** Department of Library and Information Studies " <amp33@buffalo.edu> |
| **Consumer Health Informatics: Developing a Community Engagement Approach to Foster Health Literacy in Young Adults with Disabilities.**  Civic Engagement Research Fellowship, University at Buffalo (2011)**.** |
| **Public Library Service for Children and Young Adults with Disabilities Project.**  Junior Research Grant, University at Buffalo (2011). |

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| **Department of Psychology**  “**Julie Bowker**, Associate Professor” < [jcbowker@buffalo.edu](mailto:jcbowker@buffalo.edu) > |
| **Psychological Correlates and Consequences of Friendship Dissolution During Late Childhood**  -- (not actual website) <http://wings.buffalo.edu/psychology/labs/CARL/content/Bowker%20cv%20for%20website.pdf>  Julie Bowker  -- |

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| **Department of Psychology**  **“Kenneth DeMarree**, Assistant Professor” <kgdemarr@buffalo.edu> |
| <http://nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1145739> |

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| **Department of Psychology**  **“Lora Park Bunting**, Associate Professor” <lorapark@buffalo.edu> |
| Self and Motivation Research Lab  <http://wings.buffalo.edu/psychology/labs/SMRL/index.html>  Lora Park  The overarching theme of our research program is to demonstrate that goals and motives, which are shaped by aspects of the person and the situation, have important implications for human behavior, performance, and well-being. |

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| **Department of Psychology**  “**John Roberts**, Associate Professor” <[robertsj@acsu.buffalo.edu](mailto:robertsj@acsu.buffalo.edu)> |
| **Depression Research and Treatment (DRT) Program**  <http://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~robertsj/>  ?? John Roberts  The Depression Research and Treatment (DRT) Program is a clinical research program that focuses on the psychosocial aspects of mood disorders. We are also developing projects to investigate the roles of life stress and depression in health-related behavior (e.g., treatment adherence) among HIV-positive individuals at the Erie County Medical Center. Preliminary studies from our lab suggest that attachment style is associated with degree of risky behavior and that stress and depression work together in contributing to poor treatment adherence. This research is conducted in collaboration with Immunodeficiency Services at Erie County Medical Center and the Pharmacy Practice Program at the University at Buffalo. We hope that this line of research contributes to the development of programs designed to improve health and emotional well-being among HIV-positive individuals, as well as to reduce behavior that contributes to the transmission of HIV. |

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| **Department of Communications**  "**Ashley Anker,** Department of Communication, Research Assistant Professor " <aeanker@buffalo.edu> |
| **A Positive Deviance Approach to Increasing Familial Consent Rates for Organ Donation**  ?? <http://donatelife-organdonation.blogspot.com/2013/10/ub-professor-receives-630468-federal.html>  Ashley Anker  Aimed at increasing family consent rates for organ donation |

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| **Department of Communications**  "**Helen (Hua) Wang,** Department of Communication, Assistant Professor " <hwang23@buffalo.edu> |
| **Integrating Social and Systems Science Approaches to Promote Oral Health Equity**  --  Kunzel, Northridge, and Metcalf  -- |
| **Assessment of East Los High Web Series and Transmedia Extensions**  ?? <http://www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/campus.host.html/content/shared/university/news/ub-reporter-articles/stories/2013/wang_webnovela.detail.html>  Helen (Hua) Wang  Investigators of this project will work with the show’s (East Los High) Hollywood writers, producers and their NGO partners to assess viewers’ narrative experience, the effectiveness of webnovela and transmedia entertainment formats, dynamics among the series’ fans on social media and positive changes this show has provoked in Latino communities all across the country. They will evaluate whether the series and its associated social media are changing knowledge, attitude and behaviors about safe sex and teen-pregnancy prevention among young Latinos in the United States. |
| **A Positive Deviance Approach to Increasing Familial Consent Rates for Organ Donation**  ?? <http://donatelife-organdonation.blogspot.com/2013/10/ub-professor-receives-630468-federal.html>  Ashley Anker  Aimed at increasing family consent rates for organ donation |