

University of Maryland
School of Medicine

DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report
(July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022)

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DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The executive summary below outlines the department's activities in fiscal year 2022 (FY2022).

Research. EPH faculty are frontrunners in the School of Medicine (SOM) mission areas related to research. EPH faculty published a total of 297 peer-reviewed papers, which nearly triples the number of papers published in FY21. In FY22, the department submitted 150 grant applications, requesting \$75.6m in TCs and realized a 33% increase in NIH funding compared to the prior year. 89% of extramural funding in the department comes from federal sources. Active extramural awards to all faculty with primary appointments in the department totaled \$47m, and we achieved an overall average of \$1m per faculty member (n=47).

Education. During FY2022, all academic programs associated with the department returned to in-person instruction, while remaining flexible and adaptable to account for surges and outbreaks. Anthony Harris, MD, MPH (Medical Student Education) and Jennifer Albrecht, PhD (Clinical Research) stood out in their respective and new directorial rolls. Preventive Medicine Residents passed their boards at a rate of 100%. The MPH program has been approved for a reaccreditation site visit in October after submitting their self-study draft to the Council on Education for Public Health. The MPH program also submitted a revised syllabus with a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion and received approval from the Curriculum Committee. Faculty also were engaged in training the next generation of scientists in two PhD programs: Epidemiology and Human Genetics; and Gerontology which is a joint program with University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Clinical Service. EPH has eight faculty providing clinical care services. Wendy Lane, MD, MPH, remains a role model to clinicians across the state with regards to issues of Child Welfare. Anthony Harris, MD, MPH, and his team of Infection Prevention specialists remained busy guiding the decision-making across the UM system with persistent COVID issues, and the emergence of Monkeypox. This group of seven infection control specialists also sees infectious disease consults at the UM Medical Center Downtown and at Midtown, and the Baltimore VA. This group also has tirelessly provided ongoing advice to the administration, patients, and organizations across the country, in addition to our UMB/UMMS community.

Community Outreach. Outreach is a core value to the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. Opportunities for students and faculty to get involved rebounded as we emerged with cautious optimism at points deemed to be clinically safe to gather or integrate with partners and organizations in the community. The MPH students and Preventive Medicine residents, are consistently stand-outs, going above and beyond their service requirements and finding ways to make sustained impact through their work.

Leadership

Administration: In FY22, EPH was fully functioning and running at maximum capacity. Several key positions were filled to optimize the performance of the department. As the result of a highly successful year for research and other funding, we are entering FY23 with 2 new FTEs to fill in support of the research portfolio. As one of the larger departments in the School of Medicine, administrative tasks require dedicated time and attention to detail. Our payroll manager handles 125 timesheets per pay period promptly and accurately. Communications are comprised of weekly newsletters and social media that reach faculty and staff, as well as an array of affiliates and alumni.

Finance: All state and revolving accounts balanced at year-end. Year-end balance in the DRIF account was \$890,000.

Development: In FY22, 6 solicitations were made to individuals totaling \$203,000. These solicitations resulted in a new gift to establish the Laure Aurelian Biomedical Research Endowment and additional gifts to the Albuquerque lecture fund, Renee Royak-Schaler lecture fund, and the Preventative Medicine Residency fund. Additionally, the first EPH Professorship account was created and solicitations to fund it will begin in FY23.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Research

The department is the primary home to 47 faculty members in five different cost centers. In FY22, EPH faculty published 297 peer-reviewed publications and submitted 150 grant applications totaling \$75.6m in requested total costs. This is a 21% increase in funding requests from FY2021. In pursuit of large-scale NIH funding, Dr. Sally Adebamowo responded to an invitation from NIH's Office of the Director (OD) and submitted a \$48 million proposal in response to its AIM-AHEAD Leadership/Administrative Core initiative. Dr. Owen White requested an \$8.4 million competitive renewal on his ongoing big data project, "A BRAIN Initiative Resource: The Neuroscience Multi-omic Data Archive." And Drs. Denise Orwig and Ann Gruber-Baldini are seeking to renew the Division of Gerontology's ongoing T32 training grant, now in its 25th year. If successful, they will lead the next generation of aging researchers.

In FY22, NIH funding was up 33% from the prior year. Total active extramural awards to all faculty with primary appointments in the department totaled \$47 million, which is on par with what was reported in FY2021. By cost center, \$21 million was awarded to those in the primary EPH cost center; \$18 million to those in centers/institutes (N=12); and \$7.9 million to faculty in the Cooperative Studies Coordinating Center (CSPCC (n=1)) in Perry Point. Dollars per faculty member increased with an overall average of \$1 million per faculty.

EPH's portfolio of new awards includes Dr. Jay Magaziner's five-year, \$5.7 million P30 competitive renewal, Dr. Kate Tracy's \$2.3 million R01, and Dr. Rebecca Brotman's successful R01 resubmission for \$3.9 million. Supplements to Drs. Owen White (\$4.8 million) and Shenghan Lai (\$1.8 million) also contributed to the department's success, both receiving one-year funding for expansion of their ongoing research. The FY21 Blue Ridge Report ranked Epidemiology and Public Health #1 among like departments in public schools of medicine for the second year in a row and #5 in NIH funding among like departments in all schools of medicine nationwide. Drs. Owen White (#4) and Shenghan Lai (#65) were nationally ranked among the top 100 medical school research faculty to receive NIH funding in public health-like departments.

The Program in Health Equity and Population Health (HEPH) combines research, education, and service to advance health equity by addressing the critical health issues often influenced by the social determinants of health. Under the leadership of interim co-Directors Laundette Jones, PhD, MPH, and Tim O'Connor, PhD, and Administrative Program Director Erin Walton, LCSW-C, HEPH combines research, education, and service to advance health equity by addressing critical health issues often influenced by the social determinants of health. In FY22, the program expanded its research project inventory and grant submissions. It expanded the membership to 212 total affiliates, 91 from SOM; of these, 19 from EPH. These numbers represent an overall increase from FY21, FY20 and FY19:

- FY21 121 total affiliates, 116 from SOM
- FY20, 82 total affiliates, 72 from SOM
- FY19, 73 total affiliates, 57 from SOM.

In FY22, there were 160 active grants totaling \$44,707,869. Of these, 151 were from SOM affiliates totaling \$31,101,010, with 45 projects totaling \$9,364,289.40 from affiliates in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health and 10 from other UMB schools and UMCP totaling \$13,606,859.00.

Research Honors/Awards: Highlights

- Kathryn Barry, PhD, MPH Assistant Professor and Shisi He, MS, doctoral student in molecular epidemiology, authored and published an article based on their research that found that losing excess weight and avoiding weight gain are linked to lower risk of precancerous adenomas. The study was published in *JNCI Cancer Spectrum* and evaluated data from over 17,000 participants. Their study is unique because they studied both weight loss and weight gain over different periods of time in participants' lives in relation to colorectal adenomas. The research was funded by the National Cancer Institute (K07 CA230182), the National Cancer Institute Intramural Research Program, Queen's University Belfast, and the Maryland Department of Health's Cigarette Restitution Fund Program. The PLCO Cancer Screening Trial is supported by the Intramural Research Program of the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics at the National Cancer Institute and by contracts from the Division of Cancer Prevention, National Cancer Institute. Dr. Barry was also awarded in April 2022 an American Cancers Society-Institutional Research grant, titled "*Neighborhood social factors and prostate tumor aggressiveness among African*

American and European American men" from the University of Maryland Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center with a total cost of \$30,000 over 1 year. This grant involves collaborations with investigators from several schools in the University of Maryland System including the School of Medicine, School of Pharmacy, and School of Public Health, as well as at Virginia Commonwealth University.

- Michael Terrin, MD, Professor and Jennifer Albrecht, PhD, Associate Professor were among a group of researchers from the University of Maryland Baltimore to participate in a Big Ten Health Registry to study the heart inflammation of athletes recovering from COVID-19. Dr. Terrin leads the epidemiology core lab for the registry. Results produced by the registry so far have included a study that examined medical records from nearly 1,600 athletes and was published in *JAMA Cardiology*. The Big Ten Covid-19 Cardiac Registry is being partially funded by University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: MPowering the State (MPower), the PJ Schafer Cardiovascular Research Fund, and the Rink Family Foundation.
- Jonathan Baghdadi, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Daniel Morgan, MD, MS, Professor, and Larry Magder, PhD, Professor were among the co-authors of a study published in *JAMA Network Open*, which found that most doctors still believe in prescribing unnecessary antibiotics to treat asymptomatic infections. The study found that other factors also played a role what made physicians more likely to favor prescribing antibiotics. The research was funded by the New Innovator Award from the National Institutes of Health and the University of Maryland, Baltimore Institute for Clinical & Translational Research/Clinical and Translational Science Award.
- Dr. Clement Adebamowo was awarded several new grants. In September 2021, Dr. Adebamowo was awarded a supplement to the "*African Female Breast Cancer Epidemiology (AFBRECANE) Study*" from NHGRI with direct costs of \$250,000 for 1 year. In September 2021, Dr. Adebamowo was awarded an MPI U01, titled "*Bridging Gaps in the ELSI of Data Science Health Research in Nigeria (BridgELSI)*" from NIH/OD with annual total costs of \$400,000 over 5 years. This grant involves collaborations with Nigeria. In June 2022 Dr. Adebamowo was awarded an MPI R25, titled "*Scaling Up Research Ethics and Research Integrity (SURER) Project*" from FIC with annual direct costs of \$232,509. This grant involves collaborations with Nigeria.
- Dr. Nowak was awarded in September 2021 an R21, titled "*Evaluating immunity to oral human papillomavirus to understand the lower oropharyngeal cancer risk among MSM*" from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) with a total cost of \$444,573 over 2 years. This grant involves collaborations with investigators in the School of Medicine.
- Dr. Dorgan was awarded in September 2021 a supplement to the University of Maryland Center of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation U01, titled "*Building Capacity for Research on Cancer and Aging: The UMGCCC-Medicare Database*" from FDA with a total cost of \$239,996 over 2 years. This grant involves collaborations with investigators from several schools at the University of Maryland Baltimore including the School of Medicine, School of Pharmacy, and School of Nursing.

Education

The EPH educational programs continued to thrive in FY2022, and the graduates are strong representatives of the School of Medicine's public health and epidemiology training. Below are brief updates about each academic program.

- *Clinical Research Education and Training Program - MS in Epidemiology and Clinical Research, Clinical Research Track and Certificate in Clinical Research*: Ten students were admitted in Fall, 2021; eight to the MSCR and two to the Certificate program. All courses were offered in person in accordance with campus COVID-19 policies, with the exception of PREV 619 which was online. Fifteen MSCR and two Certificate students graduated including one MD/MS dual degree student.
- *PhD and MS Programs in Epidemiology and Human Genetics*: Ann Gruber-Baldini, PhD, continued to lead Epidemiology and Human Genetics Program. FY2022 saw the same number of applications received when compared with FY2021 (32), and we maintained high quality in the applicant pool. Fifty-one PhD students will be enrolled this fall, including 9 new students (last year we had 6 new PhD students) and 8 PhD students graduated in FY2021. We have had a large number of PhD students (13) receive their own external funding. Three students were funded through an F31 (and 2 others submitted for funding), 1 with a NIH diversity supplement, 1 with a diversity supplement from the American Association of Sleep Medicine, 1 Fulbright scholar, 3 Fogarty fellows, 2 National Cancer Institute Graduate Partnerships Program fellows, and 5 students funded on T32 programs.

- *Ph.D. in Gerontology*: The dual-campus program (UMB/UMBC) continued to thrive in its 21st year under the co-leadership of SOM faculty, Denise Orwig, PhD and UMBC faculty, John Schumacher, PhD (secondary appointment in EPH/SOM). The program continued with 52 program faculty affiliates across the UMB and UMBC. Due to uncertainties with COVID-19, only 1 student enrolled in the fall. We had 22 students in the program in fall 2021. One graduated bringing our alumni total to 46. The students were primarily funded on faculty grants or state GRAs. Student accomplishments include: 23 student publications (8 first author), 36 oral presentations and poster presentations, and 6 student awards. One of our students participated in the inaugural year of the Innovations in Aging Graduate Fellowship Program, a partnership with the Maryland State Department on Aging. Two of our students provided professional talks at their jobs to provide knowledge about diversity on campus at UMGC and malnutrition risks for veterans at the Baltimore VA. The program created and distributed their eighth annual newsletter. The Alicia and YaYa Global Fellowship in Aging Research, the exchange fellowship with the University of Costa Rica and UMB, had an MOU signing ceremony to launch the exciting program. Applications are currently being accepted to begin in 2023. The MS in Gerontology was approved in early 2022 and marketing the program has begun. The first class will begin in spring 2023 semester. We continue to be proud of our faculty and students persevering through continual COVID uncertainty and of their many accomplishments and contributions to the field of gerontology.
- *Medical School Teaching*: *Medical School Teaching*: Anthony Harris MD, MPH, took over as the Director of the Epidemiology Section in the medical school curriculum. In that capacity, Dr. Harris coordinated the epidemiology and biostatistics curriculum, arranged and scheduled lectures/small group sessions, and is active on a number of the medical school curriculum committees including the Foundations Leadership committee and the Pre-Clerkship committee. It was a difficult year with many changes due to COVID. Also, in 2021-2022, the lectures moved back to in-person with a change in the small group lecturing formats. In the past year, EPH faculty members gave over 15 lectures in epidemiology and biostatistics: and over one dozen primary/secondary faculty members served as small group facilitators for epidemiology small group sessions.
- *Master of Public Health (MPH)*: In FY2022, the MPH Program, directed by Diane Marie St. George, PhD, enrolled 24 new students and graduated 13. The new Public Health Student Association launched in Summer 2021 with Ms. Reena Rambharat, MPH '17, as the inaugural advisor. The all-student leadership board has been actively engaged with building out a suite of community service, student networking and professional development activities. For the first time, the Program was able to support two graduate assistants, Ms. Keiona Jones and Ms. Shreenidhi Sharma, both members of the Fall 2021 entering cohort. Through their support, the MPH program increased its social media presence with a LinkedIn page. Thanh Pham, PhD, MPH was selected for the National Delta Omega Student Poster Session and presented his work at the annual American Public Health Association meeting in October 2021. The Program was actively involved in supporting the annual Public Health Research @ Maryland Conference co-led by our department and the College Park School of Public Health. April 2022 marks the first time the conference was hosted by the University of Maryland School of Medicine. While it was scheduled to be an in-person event in Leadership Hall, the decision was made to transition to a virtual event considering the ongoing concerns about COVID-19.
- *Preventive Medicine Residency*: *Preventive Medicine Residency*: Wendy Lane, MD, MPH, continued to lead the residency program in FY22. One of our graduating residents, and one of our new PGY-3 residents each had a manuscript published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. One resident who graduated in 2021 took the American Board of Preventive Medicine examination in the fall and passed. The program received continued accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education with no citations. We continue to receive funding from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to support two additional residents each year. These residents are required to complete a primary care residency (Pediatrics, Family Medicine, or Internal Medicine) prior to starting Preventive Medicine, and will focus some of their preventive medicine training on maternal health. We have one resident enrolled in the program who will graduate in June 2023.

Academic Honors/Awards:

- Appendix C provides a detailed reporting of the faculty, staff and student academic honors/awards for FY2022.

Clinical Service

EPH has eight faculty providing clinical care services. Wendy Lane, MD, MPH, continued to provide medical evaluations and consultations for children with possible child abuse and neglect through the hospital Child Protection Team and at the Howard County Child Advocacy Center. She ran several components of an annual full-day retreat to train pediatric interns to identify and treat children suspected of abuse and neglect. Dr. Lane serves Director of the CHAMP program (Child Abuse Medical Professionals), a statewide program to train and support health professionals throughout the state who provide care to children with suspected abuse and neglect. Also, she served as Medical Director and provided pediatric care at the Center for Hope - Baltimore Child Abuse Center, an affiliate of Lifebridge Health.

Anthony Harris, MD, MPH, continued as an Associate Hospital Epidemiologist. Surbhi Leekha, MBBS, MPH, continued to serve as Medical Director of the UMMC Department of Infection Prevention and Hospital Epidemiology. Daniel Morgan, MD, MS, continued as the chief hospital epidemiologist for the Baltimore VA Medical Center and Mary-Claire Roghmann, MD MS, and Karen Coffey MD, MS were associate hospital epidemiologists for the VA Maryland Healthcare System. Jon Baghdadi, MD, PhD, was an Associate Hospital Epidemiologist and worked mainly at the UMMC-Midtown Campus. Drs. Leekha., Baghdadi and Thom had clinical attending responsibilities in infectious disease or internal medicine at the UMMC. Surbhi Leekha, MBBS, MPH, served as Hospital Epidemiology at the University of Maryland Medical Center Downtown and Midtown. Drs. Baghdadi and Harris served as Associate Hospital Epidemiologists. This was a busy year in light of COVID and now Monkeypox. Drs. Harris, Roghmann, Morgan and Coffey see infectious disease consults at the Baltimore VA. This group regularly worked extended shifts and provided ongoing advice to the administration, patients, and organizations outside the medical and university systems.

Community Outreach

Student Initiatives: Community outreach continues to be highly valued by our department. While we returned to in-person instruction in Fall 2021, we and some of our community partners were still operating under various COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The MPH Program continues its service-learning requirement for all students in their first term and it remains quite successful. All students commit a minimum of 30 hours to a public health agency. In AY22, our partner agencies included the Positive Schools Center which serves Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Arts, Wolfe St Academy, Joseph C. Briscoe Academy and Westport Academy, the UMB CURE Program, the UMB Community Engagement Center, the Garrison-Forest School and the Central Maryland Area Health Education Center.

Faculty Initiatives: Our faculty were productive in FY22, with the continuation of many major projects and the implementation of some new faculty initiatives. While many service efforts are focused on the communities immediately local to the UMB campus, we also have a number of faculty involved in global work benefiting communities in other parts of the world and it is fitting that we welcomed a new division to the department this year.

Led by Manhattan Charurat, PhD, MHS, Professor, the Division of Global Health Sciences within the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health was established. The new division brings together faculty who conduct population health research to improve health, safeguard communities against health-related threats, and promote health equity locally and globally. Faculty conduct research on population-based surveys, surveillance, and dissemination and implementation science. The primary goal of the Division is to foster interdisciplinary collaborations in global health training and research across departments, centers, and institutes in the School of Medicine.

Clement Adebamowo, BM, ChB, ScD, FWACS, FACS, Professor successfully implemented courses on Research Integrity, Responsible Conduct of Research, Safe Working Environment and Sexual Harassment in

the Workplace and e-mentoring platform in Nigeria and a new online training for members of research ethics committees in African institutions who are reviewing genomics ethics research protocols.

Anthony Harris, MD, MPH, and the Infection Prevention Team provided community consultation services to the following organizations:

- Maryland Film Festival
- Levine Music
- Siena School in Silver Spring
- Barbara Chamers Children's Center
- South West Direct Diagnostic
- Capital Regional Hospital
- Case Western U
- Maryland Institute College of Art

Administration

EPH administrative core is functioning at maximum capacity. The APT Coordinator/Executive Assistant position was filled in May 2022. Two senior staff joined our team, Kim Teter, Major Gifts Officer, and Erin Walton, Program Director, Health Equity & Population Health, and Special Programs. After a year-long open recruitment for a payroll coordinator and no qualified applicants, we identified a long term, non-exempt employee who could assume 50% payroll associate. This person has completed all required training and has spent the last six months learning the ins-and-outs of payroll.

In the coming year, we will also be recruiting at least two FTEs (business manager, accountant/analyst) to support our growing research portfolio including several large recently funded programs and contracts.

The department's PCA account is balanced and there are no outstanding effort reports for prior fiscal years. Timesheets for nearly 125 employees have been submitted and approved on a timely basis; effort reports are current. Laura Seipp closely directs payroll activities, and we are pleased to continue reducing the number of outlier payroll actions (e.g., overpay, leave payout corrections, late pays, etc.).

The business and administrative staff continued to support the ongoing research and academic activities remotely and without interruption. The department hosted several virtual celebrations, retirements, and numerous *Virtual Escapes*, a monthly gathering of EPH faculty, staff, and students. We catch up, have a few laughs, and get that critically important break from the day-to-day monotony. Virtual events were well attended by faculty and staff and many new introductions were made.

The EPH social media presence continued through Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. These platforms are being used to promote job and training opportunities and to share information about research findings and events.

The EPH Twitter page is up to 919 followers. The top tweet over the last year was about a manuscript by Dr. Daniel Morgan published in JAMA. That tweet earned 5,789 impressions. The EPH Facebook page has 556 followers and 519-page likes. Many of our followers are women ages 25 to 45. The EPH LinkedIn page has 40 followers; 27 of those were over the last year. The EPH YouTube channel houses our important videos of recorded seminars and events.

The department continued to publish *EPH Weekly*, a digest of accomplishments, events, and announcements. *EPH Weekly* is also used to introduce new employees to the department; the interaction section was expanded to include brain teasers and puzzles, and the *In a Snap* photo section generates a lot of chatter. Readership has increased in the past year.

Finance: All state and revolving accounts balanced at year-end. Year-end balance in the DRIF account was \$890,000. Year-end balance in the IT/LAN account was \$140,000. With the exception of two modest cost centers in one account (IT/LAN) totaling ~\$50,000, funds will be used for cost share (~\$380,000), a physician recruitment in infectious disease (\$100,000), an active recruitment of a division head (\$100,000), instructional

design costs (\$25,000), our annual contract to the Department of Medicine for IT/desktop support (\$106,000), and to upgrade approximately a dozen desktop computers that are more than seven years old and out of service.

All fee-for-service biostatistical support is billed through iLABs. The biostatistical fee is adjusted annually and now includes Drs. Chixiang (“Sam”) Chen, Michelle Shardell, Shuo Chen and John Sorkin in the denominator. These faculty with expertise in AI, machine learning, and mathematical modeling may be tapped to provide biostatistical service support to the wider SOM community. In the reporting period, our biostatisticians provided approximately 305 hours consulting with sixteen SOM PIs on grant applications.

Development: In Oct of FY22, new development staff joined the department. The position previously held by Lily Jarman-Reisch is now split between Kim Teter, with the Office of Development, and Erin Walton, with the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health. During the fiscal year, 6 individual giving solicitations were made totaling \$203,000.

These solicitations resulted in:

- A new gift of \$150K to establish the Laure Aurelian Biomedical Research Endowment
 - The purpose of this endowment is to provide support to recognize early-career faculty for their contributions to promoting women conducting innovative basic or translational biomedical research, as investigators who advance women’s health, or as mentors advancing the careers of women biomedical research trainees
- Substantial individual gifts of \$15K to the Albuquerque lecture fund, \$10k to the Renee Royak-Schaler lecture fund, and \$15k to the Preventative Medicine Residency fund
- A fund has been established for the first EPH endowed Professorship and solicitations for this fund will begin in FY23
- Additional solicitations made in FY22 are anticipated to close during FY23

The Department of Epidemiology and Public Health presented the 8th Annual Renee Royak-Schaler Lecture in Health Equity, “Population Risk Stratification to Improve Breast Cancer Outcomes”. The Program in Health Equity and Population Health organized this popular annual event, and hosted Dr. Olufunmilayo Olopade, MD, FACP for the lecture. Dr. Olopade is the Walter L. Palmer Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine and Human Genetics and the Founding Director of the Center for Clinical Cancer Genetics and Global Health at University of Chicago Medicine. Planning and implementing this event provided opportunities to network with the Schaler-Haynes Family, who are the generous benefactors for this fund. Their positive feedback and enthusiasm about the continued impact of this event promises to ensure sustainability of the endowment.