Potential topics for professional papers suggested by DPH and SoDM faculty

Ronny Bell
- American Indian Health
- Diabetes epidemiology, prevention and control
- Rural health/health care
- Oral health

Marla Hall
- Patient-provider communication
- Cultural competence academic preparation and continuing education
- Diet and physical activity behaviors among minority and/or rural populations
- Barriers to healthy eating and physical activity among minority and/or rural populations
- Access to and utilization of health services and screenings among minority and/or rural populations
- Health promotion and education activities within community settings

Greg Kearney
- Environmental/Occupational studies
- Climate change
- Respiratory health (COPD and/or asthma)
- Public health surveillance (infectious, chronic diseases, clusters)
- Occupational exposures among Latino tree trimmers
- Toxic Release Inventory and Environmental Justice in ENC
- Medicaid reimbursement for home based asthma visits—Making a case for caseworkers in N.C.
- Mercury exposure and fish consumption patterns among underserved populations in ENC

Suzanne Lea
- Chemical substances in public drinking water
- Disaster recovery and community resilience: measuring adaptation
- Quality improvement in breast cancer screening in Family Medicine Dept.
- Predictors for complications in Sickle Cell Disease
- Descriptive epidemiology of Lung cancer screening
- Pesticide exposure and chronic kidney disease
- Analysis of cancer rates in eastern North Carolina
- Predictors of liver transplantation

Ruth Little
- Community Based Diabetes Management Programs
- Palliative Care and Hospice
- Long Term Care Quality
- Quality measures and outcomes across health care settings
- Long Term Care Operation & Delivery: Quality/Staffing/ Survey
- Substance Abuse Prevention/Prescription Drug misuse
Huabin Luo

Public health system research

- Effective forms of decision support and technical assistance
- Effective strategies in adoption, implementation and diffusion of research-based interventions
- Financial performance of public health agencies and effectiveness, efficiency and outcomes
- Investments in public health systems infrastructure and effectiveness, efficiency and outcomes
- Public health’s role in disparity reduction
- Public health and primary care integration

Health disparity

- Environmental factors and health outcome disparity
- Racial disparity in dental care access and quality

Long-term care quality and management

- Nursing home care quality (process of care)
- Home health care quality (chronic conditions)
- Factors related to nursing staff turnover in nursing homes and home health care providers

Ari Mwachofi

Disease specific health disparities using secondary data such as BRFSS

- Household structure and health production using secondary data such as BRFSS
- Cost-Effectiveness analysis of public health programs
- Examination of economies of scale in public health programs
- Effects of non-profit hospitals on access to care
- Effects of non-profit hospitals on community health
- Policy impact analysis

Stephanie Pitts

- Examine associations between healthy food access among local residents, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants, corner store / supermarket customers and owners, and outcomes such as fruit/vegetable purchase and consumption, sugary beverage purchase and consumption, and skin carotenoid status.
- Examine effectiveness of various Community Health Programs that focus on physical activity and nutrition.
- Examine associations between self-reported fruit and vegetable consumption and skin carotenoid status as assessed via the Veggie Meter among various populations, including middle school students.
- Examine the utility of online grocery shopping for healthy food access among low-income consumers and rural residents.

Ann Rafferty

- Survey methods
- Research studies using data from the NC BRFSS, such as
  - Use of e-cigarettes
  - Cognitive decline
  - Trends in the use of trails and greenways by NC adults
- Research questions that can be addressed by analyzing publicly available datasets from population-based surveys such as Asthma Call-Back Surveys, NC Child Health Assessment Monitoring Program, Youth Risk Behavior Surveys, and PRAMS.
Sinan Sousan
- Environmental and occupational exposure, prevention, and control.
- Air quality treatment.
- Development of low-cost particle, gas, and noise sensors for exposure assessment.
- Bioaerosol sampling and treatment.
- Air quality modeling.

Nancy Winterbauer
- Diabetes prevention and management (several topics)
- NC local health department promising practices
- Organization and functions of health educators in NC local health departments
- Community engagement and advocacy
- Lay health coaches
- Partnership evaluation
- Volunteerism

Wanda Wright (School of Dental Medicine)
- Tobacco cessation
- Oral health related quality of life
- Cultural competency training for health professionals
- Access to care
- Health disparities

Mark Moss (School of Dental Medicine)
- Strengthening community engagement using principles of Co-production to improve oral health in CSLC communities
- Tracking the impact of ECU SoDM on oral health workforce distribution and access to care in NC – study design and baseline data
- Collaborative research between primary care physicians and dentists to improve health in high risk populations. I am specifically interested in: diabetes/prediabetes, pregnancy, and young children with high blood lead levels.
- Addressing sugar-sweetened beverage consumption in general- what works for public health