Potential topics for professional papers suggested by DPH faculty

Marysia Grzybowski

- Clinical epidemiology
- Emergency medicine
- Bariatric surgery outcomes
- Surgical outcomes
- STDs
- Infectious disease
- Allergy and asthma epidemiology
- Perinatal research

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

- Occupational exposures among Latino tree trimmers
- Perception of controlled asthma outcomes among university students
- Asthma prevalence and proximity to coal fired power plants in NC
- Toxic Release Inventory and Environmental Justice in ENC
- Medicaid reimbursement for home based asthma visits—Making a case for caseworkers in NC
- Mercury exposure and fish consumption patterns among underserved populations in ENC

Juhee Kim

- Nutrition assessment and intervention at dental care setting
- Nutrition assessment and intervention at prenatal clinic setting
- Healthy Literacy, Online or SNS-based health communication in health care setting
- Pediatric Obesity
- Breastfeeding studies
- Food purchasing behaviors and food labels among low-income mothers
Suzanne Lea

- Distance to colonoscopy facility and colon cancer (data analysis)
- Qualitative analysis: Reasons Women Present with Large (> 4cm) Breast Tumors (interviews with women)
- Descriptive epidemiology of oral cancers in the USA (secondary analysis using seer*stat)
- Descriptive epidemiology of pancreatic cancer in the USA (secondary analysis using seer*stat)
- HIV in migrant and seasonal farmworkers (original data collection – might need funding)
- Transportation as a risk factor for cancer: a cancer prevention strategy
- Survey of smoking cessation services at local health department and FQHC in eastern NC
- Health literacy in patients with chronic myelogenous leukemia

Ruth Little

- Health Care Delivery in Rural Communities
- Long Term Care in Workforce Preparedness
- Long Term Care Quality Measurement
- Spirituality & Health
- Health Literacy & Cultural Literacy

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

- Usability testing with Community Commons and CDC’s Common Community Measures for Obesity Prevention to inform rural policy development to promote healthy nutrition and physical activity environments.
- Audits of farmers’ markets, analysis of farmers’ market customer volume and sales.
- Analysis of property values increasing or decreasing with proximity to farmers’ markets.
- Examine healthy food access among local residents, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants, corner store customers / owners, and others.
- Audits / observations in physical activity venues with shared use agreements.
- Examine the feasibility of a Mediterranean dietary intervention among local health department patients.

Ann Rafferty

- Self-care management practices among persons with diabetes by mental health status.
- Health characteristics of the LGBT community in NC.
- Do cancer survivors have better health habits than those who have not had cancer?
- Prevalence of comorbid conditions among North Carolina adults with disabilities. (2012 NC BRFSS data)
- Relative availability of healthful foods, consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and BMI among NC adults. (2012 NC BRFSS data)
- Is the use of trails and greenways by NC adults increasing? (2012 NC BRFSS)
- Research questions that can be addressed by analyzing publicly available datasets from population-based surveys such as, but not limited to, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveys, Asthma Call-Back Surveys, NC Child Health Assessment Monitoring Program, and the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys.

Nancy Winterbauer

- Adoption, implementation and diffusion of evidence-based interventions
  - NAP-SACC http://gonapsacc.org/ - may potentially be combined w internship (possibly > 1 student); Orange County focus;
  - Perhaps above in ENC
- Descriptive epidemiology study – NAP SACC may be combined with internship
- Evaluation of NC DPHs “Move the Needle Campaign” (mandated evidence-based interventions in local health departments) – may potentially be combined with internship