

# ST HR

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**Sustained Training in Aging & HIV Research**

**UC San Diego  
Sustained Training in Aging & HIV Research  
2022 Program Overview**

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For general information on the STAHR Program, please visit our website using the following link:  
<https://medschool.ucsd.edu/som/psychiatry/research/stahr/Pages/default.aspx>

## Program Leadership and Staff



**Scott Letendre, MD**  
Program Director  
Professor of Medicine  
and Psychiatry



**Erin Sundermann, PhD**  
Program Co-Director  
Assistant Adjunct Professor  
of Psychiatry



**David Moore, PhD**  
Program Co-Director  
Professor of Psychiatry



**Mariana Cherner, PhD**  
Professor of Psychiatry



**Raeanne Moore, PhD**  
Associate Professor of  
Psychiatry



**Sara Gianella, MD**  
Associate Professor of Medicine



**Megan Caines Duff**  
Fund Manager



**Tasnuva Chowdhury**  
Program Coordinator

## Keynote Speaker



**Dr. Lucette A Cysique**

Associate Professor  
UNSW Psychology

Dr. Lucette Cysique is an Associate Professor and neuropsychologist with extensive neuroimaging training, who leads a research program in several chronic health conditions (COVID-19, HIV, HCV, Cancer, cardiovascular diseases, aging, depressive disorders) and their neurocognitive complications across the adult lifespan at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney since 2009. Dr. Cysique has expertise in the measurement of cognitive trajectories across the adult life span in longitudinal cohort studies and clinical trials and contributes to the development of normative neuropsychological data for cross-sectional and longitudinal studies. Additionally, Dr. Cysique has extensive experience in cross-cultural neuropsychology (test, norms development, and multi-site international studies). Dr. Cysique is also a visiting scholar at the MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital where she leads project on research translation. Dr. Cysique has received her neuro/psychology training in France, UK, Australia and the US. Of relevance, she was a post-doctoral fellow at the HNRP UCSD from 2005-2008 under the supervision of Prof. Robert Heaton and Prof. Mariana Cherner. She also worked on several projects with Prof. Scott Letendre and Prof. Ronald Ellis and many other HNRC investigators.



## UC San Diego Sustained Training in Aging and HIV Research (STHR) Program 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop

Taking place virtually on  
July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Zoom:** <https://uchealth.zoom.us/j/88057780973?pwd=ak01ZW9QRXdqanJTMGVxQ3RNSGMzQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 880 5778 0973

**Password:** 922019

**Call-in Number:**

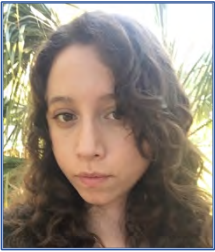
\*Additional call-in info at bottom\*

All times are PST

### Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>

<b>8:30am – 9:00am</b>	Erin Sundermann, PhD and Scott Letendre, MD <i>Welcome and Overview to the STHR Program</i>
<b>9:00am – 10:00am</b>	Keynote speaker – Lucette A. Cysique, PhD
<b>10:00am – 10:10am</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:10am – 10:20am</b>	Judith Lobo, PhD (University of California San Diego) – STHR Scholar <i>Resting-state connectivity associated with HIV, age and Methamphetamine use</i>
<b>10:20am – 10:30am</b>	Kalen Petersen, PhD (Washington University in St. Louis) – STHR Scholar <i>Quantifying HIV-associated brain aging using multimodal MRI</i>
<b>10:30am – 10:40am</b>	Mary Clare Masters, MD (Northwestern University) – STHR Scholar <i>Longitudinal Trajectories of Physical and Cognitive Function among Persons Aging with HIV</i>
<b>10:40am – 10:50am</b>	Xiaoying Yu, MD, PhD (University of Texas Medical Branch) – STHR Scholar <i>HIV and aging in real-world populations</i>
<b>10:50am – 11:00am</b>	Ankita Garg, PhD (University of Georgia) – STHR Scholar <i>Androgen deficiency and Accelerated Aging in PLWH</i>
<b>11:00am – 11:10am</b>	Asante Kamkwala, PhD (Johns Hopkins School of Medicine) – STHR Scholar <i>Longitudinal Biomarkers of HIV-Infection in Older People with HIV</i>
<b>11:10am – 11:20am</b>	Avery Matthews, MD (Audie L. Murphy VA Medical Center) – STHR Scholar <i>Diabetic neuropathy and telomere length shortening in PLWH</i>
<b>11:20pm – 12:20pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>12:20pm – 12:30pm</b>	Presentation from graduating class (Jane O'Halloran, Alexis Bender, Stephanie Shiao, Michelle Odlum)
<b>12:30pm – 12:50pm</b>	Breakout Session: STHR scholars, mentors, and affiliated faculty
<b>12:50pm – 1:10pm</b>	STHR Feedback Session
<b>1:10pm – 1:25pm</b>	Closing Remarks (Scott Letendre, MD)

## Second-year Scholars



**Judith Lobo, PhD**

Dr. Judith Lobo is a cognitive neuroscientist with expertise in neuroimaging methods and inflammatory biomarkers and currently holds a position as a post-doctoral research fellow in as a part of the HNRP at UCSD. She received her PhD in Cognitive Neuroscience from the University of Miami and her B.A. from New College of Florida. Her doctoral work focused on neuroimaging of aging in SuperAgers and brain connectivity associated with inflammation among post-menopausal women living with HIV. Her post-doctoral work emphasizes neuroHIV and substance use using neuroimaging and immunoassay markers of disease progression. Currently, Dr. Lobo is a TRAIN scholar and her current focus bridges brain and peripheral inflammatory mechanisms of aging and substance abuse among people living with HIV.



**Mary Clare Masters, MD**

Dr. Mary Clare Masters is an Instructor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. She received a B.A. in Human Biology from Stanford University and her medical degree from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. She moved to Chicago to pursue her Internal Medicine residency at The University of Chicago followed by a fellowship in Infectious Diseases at Northwestern. Dr. Masters subsequently joined Northwestern's faculty in 2020.

Her research focuses on long-term outcomes of and comorbidities associated with chronic HIV infection, particularly physical and neurocognitive impairment. Currently, she is investigating the longitudinal relationship between cognitive and physical function in older persons with and without HIV and the impact of metformin use on these trajectories among participants in the ACTG 5322/HAILO and the MACS/WIHS Combined Cohort Studies. This work is supported by a Grants for Early Medical/Surgical Specialists' Transition to Aging Research (GEMSSTAR) award from the NIA.



**Kalen Petersen, PhD**

Dr. Petersen is a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Neurology at Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Petersen obtained his B.S. in Biology at the University of Tulsa and his Ph.D. in Chemical and Physical Biology at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN, where he applied multimodal brain imaging techniques to characterize structure-function relationships in neurological disorders including Parkinson's disease.

Under the guidance of his mentor Dr. Beau Ances, he joined the HIV research community in 2020 with a focus on accelerated aging of brain function. His work applies machine learning techniques to estimate individuals' 'brain-predicted ages' as a biomarker of neurological dysfunction and a potential predictor of cognitive impairment. Dr. Petersen has expertise in multiple clinically relevant neuroimaging techniques, including characterization of resting-state functional connectivity, measurement of cerebral blood flow, and quantification of white matter integrity.



**Xiaoying Yu, MD, PhD**

Dr. Xiaoying Yu is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Population Health at University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB). Dr. Yu received a MD degree from Peking Union Medical College, China and her PhD degree in biostatistics from the University of Texas School of Public Health. Before coming to UTMB, Dr. Yu worked as a biostatistician at Northwestern University and Baylor College of Medicine. She has served as core statistician for the Baylor-UT Houston Center for AIDS Research Study for 10 years. Currently, Dr. Yu is a scholar in the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) program. She is focusing on research on HIV and aging and is examining the role of sex as a biologic variable among older HIV infected individuals using large administrative datasets. She is particularly interested in assessing depression and dementia in comparing older HIV+ with HIV- Medicare enrollees. She will also examine the impact of depression and substance abuse for developing dementia among older HIV+ patients. Her long-term goal is to become a successful independent investigator and biostatistician specializing in health services research, with a focus on HIV and aging research.



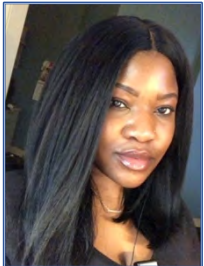
## Third-year Scholars



**Ankita Garg, PhD**

Dr. Garg is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Infectious Diseases at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia. She obtained her PhD in Medical Microbiology from Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, India. Her Masters is in Microbiology. During her Doctoral training, her research program focused on understanding molecular mechanisms and immune pathogenesis of drug resistant tuberculosis. In her postdoc, Dr. Garg initially worked on the role of natural killer cells and regulatory T-cells in human tuberculosis. Later, at UCSD, Dr. Garg worked on immune dysfunction in HIV-infected individuals with virologic suppression.

Her research focuses on infectious and non-infectious co-morbidities associated with HIV infection, with particular emphasis on HIV-M tuberculosis co-infection and neurocognitive co-morbidities, respectively.



**Asante Kamkwala, PhD**

Dr. Kamkwala is a researcher focusing on clinical cognitive neuroscience, and currently holds a position as a post-doctoral research fellow in the Department of Neurology, Division of Neurovirology and Neuroimmunological Infections at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She obtained her PhD in Cognitive and Systems Neuroscience in 2019 from the Vanderbilt Brain Institute, in Nashville, TN, and holds a Bachelor's degree in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology from Emory University in Atlanta, GA. She also recently was awarded a Young Investigator Scholarship to participate in the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) 2020.

Her research interest focuses on the neurobehavioral consequences of aging with chronic HIV infection, particularly the effects of traumatic experiences and stress. Her post-baccalaureate research work centered on behavioral outcomes of civilian PTSD symptoms in low-income, chronically stressed predominantly African-American urban populations. Her doctoral research focused on cognitive aging, and the dysfunctional neurotransmitter systems that may contribute to the accelerated pattern of cognitive aging in HIV-infected adults, supported by funding through the Vanderbilt Clinical and Translational Science award, as well as a pilot grant from the Vanderbilt Center for AIDS Research (CFAR). Under the guidance of Dr. Leah H. Rubin, MPH, PHD, her current research focus bridges these two previous projects, investigating altered neurophysiological and cognitive correlates of stress exposure and PTSD in PLWH.



**Avery Matthews, MD**

Dr. Matthews is a full-time clinician at the Audie L Murphy VA medical center in the PRIME clinic, which serves veterans with complex mental health needs. Last year, she completed geriatric psychiatry fellowship at the University of California, San Diego. She received medical degree and a master's degree in basic biomedical science from New York University. Prior to medical school, virology was her focus. She conducted research on coronavirus spike protein at the University of Pennsylvania. She studied herpesvirus at Columbia University, looking at HSV1 ICP27 modeling trigeminal root ganglion infection in mice and performing initial studies on the drug doxovir as a possible treatment. She examined toxin-encoding *S. aureus* bacteriophages at New York University. As a medical student, she rotated at the Daniel C. Leicht Center for outpatient HIV care at Gouverneur Hospital and in Bellevue Hospital's inpatient HIV service, and she attended an American Psychiatric Association workshop on HIV psychiatry. She plans to meld her clinical interests-- persons living with HIV and older adults with neurodegenerative diseases-- with her research interests in virology. Her proposed research hopes to determine whether herpesvirus central nervous systems infections contribute to HIV-associated neurocognitive disorder.



**Upal Roy, PhD**

Dr. Upal Roy is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. He received a Ph.D. in Microbiology from Goa University, India and obtained his postdoctoral training at the Tulane University and University of Nebraska Medical Center on HIV drug resistance mechanisms and antiviral drug development research. His research interests include HIV-1 Infection, Drug development and delivery, Therapeutics, and Nanomedicine. He has a long-standing interest in the biological characterization of the drug for its therapeutic potentials in HIV infection. In this regard, he has developed several unique humanized mouse models to reproduce the human immune system and also developed several delivery platforms for targeted drug delivery. His work has always been very multidisciplinary and collaborative. The ultimate goal of his research is to develop next-generation detection and therapy model for people living and aging with HIV-1 infection

## Alumni



**Alexis Bender, PhD**

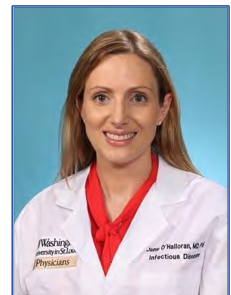
Dr. Bender is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of General Medicine and Geriatrics at Emory University School of Medicine. Dr. Bender received her PhD in Sociology with a concentration in family, health, and the life course and an interdisciplinary certificate in gerontology from Georgia State University. Dr. Bender's dissertation research investigated the experiences of married couples following traumatic spinal cord injury. Following her graduate work, Dr. Bender worked with the Army Public Health Center in Maryland conducting mixed methods research and evaluation of social and behavioral health among active duty soldiers and their families (e.g. behavioral health access, suicide, violence). Overall, her research is guided by the life course perspective and focuses on aging with disability and chronic diseases, including HIV and substance use disorders. She is interested in how relationships (linked lives) with formal and informal support providers influence physical and mental health outcomes.



**Michelle Odlum, EdD**

Dr. Odlum is an Assistant Professor at Columbia University in the School of Nursing. She holds a Bachelor's in Nursing from Syracuse University and graduate degrees in Public Health and Education from Columbia University. Dr. Odlum is a named HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) Domestic Scholar and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) New Connections Scholars.

Dr. Odlum's program of research centers on the development of technology-enhanced interventions for improved health outcomes in populations aging with HIV. Accordingly, she intends to explore the complex needs of older adults living with HIV to understand and address the biological, behavioral, psychological and social factors that impact health and quality of life outcomes. She is interested in designing interventions to support symptom self-management. Her current research, includes an NIH funded fatigue self-management pilot intervention, successfully implemented, in a population of Latinos 50 and over aging with HIV. Dr. Odlum's work also includes the development of narrower HIV and aging-related comorbidity phenotypes with greater clinical validity for intervention efficacy. Her published research includes the analysis of clinical data and has identified key differences in comorbidity-related outcomes for HIV infected and uninfected populations.



**Jane O'Halloran, MD, PhD**

Dr. O'Halloran is an Assistant Professor in Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases at Washington University School of Medicine. She studied medicine at the National University of Ireland, Galway. Dr. O'Halloran completed Specialist Registrar training in Infectious Diseases and Internal Medicine in Ireland, where she also did her PhD thesis with Dr. Patrick Mallon at University College Dublin on mechanisms contributing to increased cardiovascular disease in HIV infection. She subsequently went on to do a fellowship in Infectious Diseases at Washington University in St Louis. Dr. O'Halloran joined the faculty of Washington University in St Louis in July 2019. Her research focuses on co-morbidities associated with HIV infection, with particular emphasis on the impact of antiretroviral therapy on cardiovascular, metabolic and neurocognitive co-morbidities. Over the last 18 months much of her focus has been on clinical and translation research in SARS-CoV-2.



**Stephanie Shiao, PhD**

Dr. Stephanie Shiao is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at Rutgers School of Public Health. She received a PhD and an MPH in Epidemiology from Columbia University and a BA in Public Health Studies from The Johns Hopkins University. After graduate school, she completed a postdoctoral research fellowship at the Gertrude H. Sergievsky Center at Columbia University. She holds a Certified in Public Health (CPH) credential.

Dr. Shiao's interdisciplinary research program focuses on the effects of HIV and its treatment over the life course, seeking to identify modifiable factors that influence trajectories of HIV-associated non-AIDS (HANA) conditions in children, adolescents, and adults living with HIV and affected by HIV. Her work integrates epidemiologic tools, imaging assessments, and laboratory biomarkers, including assays to measure epigenetic markers. Dr. Shiao has established collaborations to study the relationships between epigenetic age, inflammation, cognitive impairment, and frailty in young and older adults living with HIV, as well as substance use in older adults living with HIV. Her K01 is focused on understanding how prescription opioid use affects a growing population of aging adults with HIV in the United States.





**Annie Nguyen, PhD**

Dr. Nguyen obtained her PhD in Public and Community Health from the Medical College of Wisconsin, her Master's in Public Health from Dartmouth College, and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of California, San Diego. She was a participant of the 2015 National Institutes on Aging Butler-Williams Scholars Program and the 2015 RAND Summer Institute. She is the Chair of the Aging and Public Health Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA) and President-elect of the American Academy of Health Behavior (AAHB). Dr. Nguyen is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California (USC).

Her research focuses broadly on quality of life and health outcomes for older adults and particularly, older adults living with HIV. She is interested in the relationship between life stressors and quality of life and health outcomes, conceptualizations of successful aging, and advance care planning for older adults living with HIV. She adheres to community-based approaches in her research, which has been supported by various funding sources including the NIH and private foundations. She is currently the PI of a NIH/NIA K01 career development award.



**Anna Rubtsova, PhD**

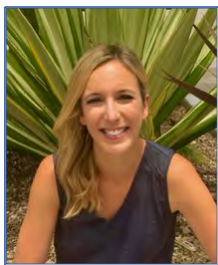
Dr. Rubtsova is an Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Behavioral, Social, and Health Education Sciences at Emory University Rollins School of Public Health. She received both her PhD and MA in Sociology from Emory University. Her MSc in Social and Organizational Psychology from the London School of Economics (LSE) was funded by a competitive scholarship from the LSE, International Renaissance Foundation, and Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Dr. Rubtsova is passionate about women's health and HIV treatment and prevention and serves as a Co-Investigator for MACS/WIHS Combined Cohort Study Atlanta Clinical Research Site. Dr. Rubtsova's current research focuses on the social determinants of health and psychosocial factors related to aging with HIV, and especially frailty and successful aging.



**Samir Sabbag, MD**

Dr. Sabbag is a practicing psychiatrist who is board certified in both adult and geriatric psychiatry. He received his medical degree from Universidad del Norte in Colombia and did his psychiatry residency and geriatric psychiatry fellowship at the University of Miami.

His research interest involves the geriatric population, specifically in the area of functionality, and in the development of strategies that will enable older adults, especially those at risk such as ethnic minorities, cognitively impaired and HIV positive populations, to live independently in the community. He has worked in research involving older ethnically diverse LGBT adults, and in assessments of cognitive and functional capacity of adult patients with severe mental illness, HIV and cognitive impairments, through the use of technology. The main focus of his research has been on Hispanic geriatric populations, the LGBT community, HIV populations, and the effect that these may have in functional and cognitive impairment. He has published various papers and book chapters, and presented findings from his research at important national and international meetings.



**Erin Sundermann, PhD**

Dr. Sundermann is a cognitive neuroscientist in the Department of Psychiatry at UC San Diego. Her graduate training started at UCSD in a Psychology Master's program where she conducted research focused on olfactory function as an early indicator of incipient dementia. She then went on to the University of Illinois at Chicago for her doctoral degree in cognitive neuroscience and a postdoctoral fellowship at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in NYC. During her doctoral training, her research program with Dr. Pauline Maki focused on estrogen-related genetic polymorphisms and their association with cognition and brain function in healthy populations and women with HIV. She was fortunate enough to have her doctoral work funded by a Scholar's Grant from the Mount Sinai Institute of NeuroAIDS Disparities (MSINAID) which also involved six weeks of didactic training in NeuroAIDS disparities in NYC. In her postdoc position, Dr. Sundermann worked with the Einstein Aging Study in the investigation of biomarkers and risk factors for cognitive aging and dementia, particularly sex-specific and genetic risk factors.

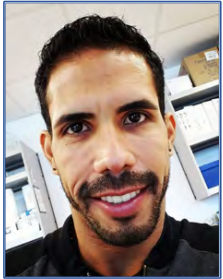
Dr. Sundermann is an Assistant Adjunct Professor at UCSD. Currently, her research program has two major themes: (1) characterizing sex differences in the trajectory diagnosis, risk factors and biomarkers of Alzheimer's disease and (2) investigating the manifestation of Alzheimer's disease in the context of HIV. Along with her colleagues at the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center, she is part of a project that aims to develop empirical, neuropsychological methods to discriminate HIV-infected individuals that are on the AD trajectory from those with HIV-associated neurocognitive impairment.



**Jessica Montoya,  
PhD**

Dr. Montoya is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at UC San Diego. She is currently supported by a NIDA Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award (K23). Dr. Montoya received her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in Behavioral Medicine from the San Diego State University/UC San Diego Joint Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology, and she received her B.A. in Psychology from Princeton University.

Dr. Montoya conducts research at the UC San Diego HIV Neurobehavioral Research Program (HNRP), which focuses on 1) implementation of integrated HIV care and substance use disorder services for adults, 2) evaluation of mobile health interventions aimed at promoting health behaviors, such as medication adherence, among complex, challenging patient populations, and 3) identification of plasma-based biomarkers associated with vascular dysfunction and HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders. As part of her involvement in the STAHR program, Dr. Montoya received formal mentorship from Drs. David J. Moore and Alison Moore to examine substance use behaviors among older persons living with HIV and its impact on health outcomes.



**Josué Pérez Santiago,  
PhD**

Josué Pérez-Santiago received a B.S. in Computer Science and a B.S. in Mathematics from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus. He obtained his PhD in the Bioinformatics and Systems Biology Program at UCSD, where he investigated the gut microbiome in acute and early HIV infection and its association with the pathogenesis of HIV. In his postdoctoral appointment, he transitioned to NeuroAIDS at the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center at UCSD, in which he evaluated the association of cell-free mitochondrial DNA and mitochondrial genetic defects with neurological damage and neurocognitive decline in HIV infection and methamphetamine use. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology at the University of Puerto Rico Comprehensive Cancer Center. His work focuses on understanding the role of the human microbiome in aging-related conditions, such as neurocognitive decline, metabolic syndrome, and cancer in HIV infection.



**Caitlin Pope, PhD**

Dr. Pope is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health, Behavior & Society and the Graduate Center for Gerontology in the College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky. She is also a faculty associate at the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center. She obtained a PhD in Lifespan Developmental Psychology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Injury Research and Policy at the Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Dr. Pope is a former recipient of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FWHA) for her dissertation work on investigating driving behaviors and transportation barriers in those aging with HIV in central Alabama. She is an alumna of the National Institute of Aging Butler-Williams Scholars Program and was most recently awarded a scholar position on a NIH-funded K12 Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) training grant at the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Pope's research focuses on understanding the complex associations between age-related changes in health and cognition, pathology-related neurocognitive burden, and outcomes that indicate an individual's ability to maintain safe and independent function in later life. In the context of those aging with HIV, Dr. Pope is interested in investigating the cognitive, emotional, and environmental mechanisms that will help to improve safe mobility and everyday functioning, quality of life, and healthy aging for those living with HIV. Dr. Pope is an editorial board member for the Journal of Safety Research and is a member of The Gerontological Society of America and the Transportation Research Board.



**Elizabeth  
Vásquez, DrPH**

Dr. Elizabeth Vásquez is an Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University at Albany School of Public Health. Dr. Vásquez research agenda aims to examine the individual-level indicators and the ecological impact of social context, which contributes to differential health outcomes in older racial and ethnically diverse populations, in particular Latinos. Dr. Vásquez NIH funded research explores (1) physical activity as a component of health and well-being and its relationship to health outcomes; and (2) the role of psychosocial determinants and behavior among racially and ethnically diverse populations. In addition, her Albany University funded work evaluates mental health disparities across NYS residents during the COVID 19 pandemic. Dr. Vásquez is a fellow with the Sustained Training in Aging and HIV Research (STAHR) program and an affiliated investigator with the Study of Latinos (SOL). She is an alumna of Programs to Increase Diversity among Individuals Engaged in Health-Related Research (PRIDE) and the National Institute of Aging Butler-Williams Scholars Program.

## Mentors



**Beau Ances, MD,  
PhD Mentor to Jane  
O'Halloran, MD, PhD  
& Kalen Petersen,  
PhD**

Dr. Ances is a Professor of Neurology at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. His clinical and research interests include HIV associated neurocognitive disorders (HAND), HIV associated peripheral neuropathy, neuroAIDS, progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML), neurodegenerative diseases, mild cognitive impairment, aging, cognitive function, paraneoplastic disorders, post concussive syndrome, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)



**Mark Bondi, PhD  
Mentor to Erin  
Sundermann,  
PhD**

Dr. Bondi received his doctorate in Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology from the University of Arizona (1991) and was a National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Fellow at UCSD from 1991 to 1993. Currently he is a Professor of Psychiatry at UCSD and Director of the Neuropsychological Assessment Unit at the San Diego Veterans Affairs Healthcare System. Dr. Bondi is a licensed psychologist in California and board certified in Clinical Neuropsychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology. He is a Fellow of both the National Academy of Neuropsychology and Division 40 (Society for Clinical Neuropsychology) of the American Psychological Association and is a former President of APA Division 40. He serves on the editorial boards of several prominent journals in neuropsychology and he has published over 230 research articles and book chapters, and he is the co-author of the 2013 book *Mild Cognitive Impairment and Dementia: Definitions, Diagnosis and Treatment*.



**Mariana Cherner,  
PhD Mentor to Samir  
Sabbag, MD, Jane  
O'Halloran, MD, PhD,  
& Kalen Petersen,  
PhD**

Dr. Cherner is a Professor of Psychiatry at UCSD and a faculty member in the SDSU/UCSD Joint Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology. She directs the Interdisciplinary Research Fellowship in NeuroAIDS (IRFN) and is an investigator within the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Program (HNRP). Her research focuses on neurobehavioral correlates of HIV in the context of substance use, particularly on individual differences in vulnerability to methamphetamine-related brain dysfunction, and more recently, CNS effects at the intersection of HIV and cannabis. She is also very interested in culturally competent neuropsychological assessment, with a focus on Spanish speakers and HIV in resource-limited settings. Dr. Cherner is substantially involved in research mentoring and mentor training.



**Colin Depp, PhD  
Mentor to Anna  
Rubtsova, PhD**

As a clinician scientist, my research has focused on technology-based longitudinal assessment and real-time interventions in mental health, in particular mobile technology applications in serious mental illnesses. I have been fortunate to receive as PI several NIMH and VA grants, each concerned with evaluation of technology enhanced assessments and cognitive and behavioral real-time interventions. I am a co-investigator on several other NIH and foundation-funded projects that deliver multi-component behavioral interventions and incorporate use of technology to assess and modify physical activity, aging-in-place, sleep and outcomes. I am also the Director of Research Education and Training at the Clinical and Translational Research Institute at the University of California, San Diego and I am active in the role of mentoring clinician scientists in multiple training programs. This position has led me to be increasingly involved in inter-disciplinary education programs, and developing team science in collaboration with clinicians, engineers, and bioinformaticians, as well as in creating novel training opportunities in entrepreneurship in medical devices. Clinically, I am practicing clinical psychologist in the VA San Diego where I mentor and clinically supervise residents, fellows, graduate students, and interns.



**Ronald Ellis, MD**  
Mentor to Asante  
Kamkwala, PhD &  
Mary Clare Masters, MD

Dr. Ellis is a physician scientist whose laboratory and clinical work seeks to delineate how pathological interactions between human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and its human host result in nervous system diseases such as dementia and peripheral neuropathy. After undertaking MD and PhD training in Behavioral Neuroscience in Boston with some of the founders of modern neuropsychology and behavioral neurology, Dr. Ellis completed post-MD training in Neurology at UC San Diego. He then served as a fellow in dementia, developing an interest in the emerging area of neurocognitive complications of HIV infection. At UC San Diego he built a program in HIV Neurology, encompassing clinical service, clinical trials research and laboratory investigations of HIV neuropathogenesis, that serves as an internationally recognized resource. His research program addresses topics such as HIV neurocognitive disorders, CNS effects of antiretroviral therapy, viral compartmentalization in plasma and CSF, the clinical impact of peripheral neuropathy and neuropathic pain in HIV and ARV pharmacology in the CNS. He contributes nationally and internationally to neuroHIV research, currently serving as Chair of the Neurology Collaborative Science Group of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG).



**Pariya Fazeli-Wheeler, PhD**  
Mentor to Caitlin  
Pope, PhD

Dr. Pariya Fazeli is an experimental psychologist with academic training in lifespan development, cognitive aging, and gerontology. Her primary research interests include cognitive aging among older adults with HIV, with a focus on predictors of successful cognitive aging as well as rehabilitation strategies to promote successful cognitive aging in this population. Her work is currently funded by the National Institute on Aging.



**Christine Fennema-Notestine, PhD**  
Mentor to Stephanie  
Shiau, PhD, Kalen  
Petersen, PhD, &  
Judith Lobo, PhD

Dr. Fennema-Notestine, Professor of Psychiatry and Radiology at UCSD, is a cognitive neuroscientist with expertise in neuroimaging, cognitive neuropsychology, and biomedical informatics. She received her B.S. in Brain and Cognitive Sciences from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and her Ph.D. in Cognitive Science and Psychology from UCSD, supported by graduate fellowships from the National Science Foundation and McDonnell-Pew Center for Cognitive Neuroscience. Her post-doctoral work emphasized methods development of structural and functional neuroimaging techniques and clinical applications. Dr. Fennema-Notestine's work in neuroimaging and biomedical informatics includes assessing method performance to improve outcomes and allow data pooling, which led to the development of large datasets and scientific advances in our understanding of phenotypes associated with risk and progression of HIV and Alzheimer's disease. Her research broadly emphasizes MRI methods development and application of these methods in collaborative studies of aging and disorders including HIV, neurodegenerative disease, eating disorders, and substance use.



**Adam Fields, PhD**  
Mentor to Upal  
Roy, PhD

Dr. Fields's research is focused on understanding and developing therapies for neurodegenerative diseases. He is particularly interested understanding in how alterations in mitochondrial function, chronic inflammation and disrupted autophagy drive neurodegenerative processes in HIV associated neurocognitive disorder, HIV-sensory neuropathy and other neurodegenerative diseases. Dr. Fields analyzes postmortem brain specimens from humans and animal models to identify molecular and biochemical patterns and neuropathological signatures associated with disease. In vitro models are used to dissect the neuropathogenic mechanisms and test therapeutic strategies in neurons, astrocytes, and microglia. Ultimately, the goal of this work is to identify therapeutic targets and treatments that will improve clinical outcomes for people suffering from neurological disorders.





**Sara Gianella, MD**  
Mentor to Anna  
Rubtsova, PhD  
& Avery Matthews, MD

Dr. Gianella is a physician specialized in infectious disease and a researcher in the area of translational virology, molecular biology, and immunology. Her primary research focus is on the transmission dynamics and persistence of HIV in various anatomic compartments (genital and central nervous system), and interactions with co-infecting viruses, especially cytomegalovirus. She is also investigating clinical complications related to persistent immune activation during treated HIV-infection and sex/gender-differences in HIV pathogenesis. Her work involves bioinformatics to characterize viral evolution during and after HIV transmission and viral dynamics between anatomic compartments.

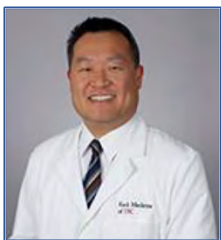
Dr. Gianella is an active member of the ACTG Women's Health Inter-Network Scientific Committee, the Comorbidity Transformative Science Group as well as the Underrepresented Populations Committee. She is the director of the Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) Translational Virology (TV) Core as well as the Neuro Virology and Biology Core of the HIV Neuro-behavioral Research Center (HNRC).



**Deborah Gustafson, PhD**  
Mentor to Elizabeth  
Vásquez, DrPH

Deborah Gustafson is a Professor at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center, Department of Neurology, and Director of NeuroEpidemiology. Dr. Gustafson was first to report on a relationship between overweight and obesity and risk of Alzheimer's disease in population-based studies in Sweden. Today, she explores potential mechanisms of adipose tissue, as well as vascular and metabolic factors, in relationship to cognition, neuropsychiatric disorders and brain structure in epidemiologic studies. In Brooklyn, New York, she is co-Principal Investigator of the Brooklyn site of the NIH-funded, multicenter MACS WIHS Combined Cohort Study: Brooklyn Clinical Research Site (MWCCS Bklyn CRS), formerly the Women's Interagency HIV Study (WIHS), for which she chairs the Aging Working Group and leads efforts in assessments of adiposity, frailty and cognition. She also collaborates with studies in Southwest American Indian elder communities. In Sweden, she is a guest professor at the University of Skövde and co-Investigator on AGECAP, a Swedish initiative. Deborah is the recipient of grants from the National Institutes of Health, the European Union, and the Swedish Research Council.

Dr. Gustafson has over 170 peer-reviewed or invited publications. She is an invited speaker at international meetings on the topics of adiposity, vascular factors, and prevention of dementia and other mental disorders in the elderly. She is an Associate Editor for Alzheimer's & Dementia (AlzDem) and the Journal of Alzheimers Disease (JAD); Chair of the Vascular Cognitive Disorders Professional Interest Area (VPIA) for the Alzheimer's Association; on the Executive and 2018 Program Committees of the International Society of Vascular Behavioural and Cognitive Disorders (VasCog); and member of the New York City Regional Obesity Forum (NYCROF). Deborah received her educational training from the University of Minnesota (PhD, MS and BA), held an NIH postdoctoral fellowship in Genetic Epidemiology, received docentur in Experimental Psychiatry in Sweden and was awarded the Senior Researcher position in Psychiatric Epidemiology by the Swedish Research Council.



**Duke Han, PhD**  
Mentor to Annie  
Nguyen, PhD

Duke Han, PhD, is a diplomate of the American Board of Professional Psychology in Clinical Neuropsychology (ABPP-CN), Director of the Neuropsychology Division in the Department of Family Medicine, and a tenured Full Professor of Family Medicine, Neurology, Psychology, and Gerontology in the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California (USC). Dr. Han is interested in elucidating the factors that impact cognition and decision making in aging. He also has special interests in using novel neuroimaging and statistical approaches to better understand these factors. Dr. Han maintains an active research collaboration with the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center (RADC) of Rush University Medical Center (RUMC) in Chicago, where he was most recently a tenured faculty member and continues to retain visiting professor status. He was the recipient of the prestigious Paul B. Beeson Career Development Award in aging research, which is supported by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the American Federation of Aging Research (AFAR), and the John A. Hartford Foundation. Dr. Han is actively involved in peer-review of aging and Alzheimer's Disease research grants for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and has served as the Chair of the NIA Clinical and Translational Research of Aging Review Committee (NIA-T) and the Neuroscience of Aging Review Committee (NIA-N). He reviews manuscripts for over 30 scientific journals and is on the editorial board for the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*, and *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*. Dr. Han is an inaugural Governance Committee member of the Global Council for Brain Health, an independent science collaborative convened by the AARP with support from AgeUK that has been tasked to summarize and communicate scientific knowledge about brain health topics for the aging public. Dr. Han currently serves as an oral examiner for the clinical neuropsychology board certification process for the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN), and holds leadership or mentorship roles in the International Neuropsychological Society (INS), the National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN), the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology (AACN), and the Society of Clinical Neuropsychology (Division 40) of the American Psychological Association (APA). His work has been featured in multiple media outlets such as *Reuters*, *CBS*, *PBS*, *Forbes*, *Fox Business News*, and *U.S. News and World Report*.





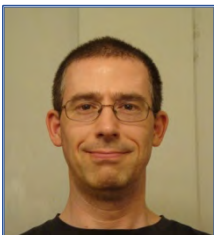
**Robert Heaton, PhD**  
Mentor to Stephanie  
Shiau, PhD

Dr. Heaton's research uses refined neuropsychological (NP) methods to characterize cognitive changes associated with numerous conditions, including focal brain lesions, Alzheimer's disease, Multiple Sclerosis, schizophrenia, substance use disorders, and HIV infection. His current H-index is 88/117 (Web of Science/Google Scholar), and he has published extensively on the neurobehavioral effects of HIV infection and comorbid conditions (including substance use disorders), as well as on the use of neuropsychological (NP) testing to document changes in brain functioning due to disease progression and treatment. This work has been done in the US and multiple international locations. He also chaired the Algorithm Committee that operationalized the international "Frascati" criteria for research classification of HIV Associated Neurocognitive Disorders (HAND); these included criteria for classifying neurocognitive impairment, symptomatic status and three levels of comorbid conditions. In more general NP work, he has demonstrated the importance of correcting for multiple demographic influences on the test performance of normal subjects, and published demographically corrected norms for many widely used tests. A longstanding interest has been to establish the clinical significance of NP test results. He has done so in numerous studies demonstrating strong associations between NP findings and disease prognosis, patient's capabilities and limitations in everyday functioning, and postmortem neuropathology findings. Dr Heaton has received the National Academy of Neuropsychology award for distinguished career contributions; he is past president of the Clinical Neuropsychology Division of the American Psychological Association and the International Neuropsychological Society.



**Timothy Heckman, PhD**  
Mentor to Ankita  
Garg, PhD

Dr. Heckman is a Professor of Health Promotion and Behavior in the College of Public Health at the University of Georgia. His areas of expertise include HIV/AIDS, rural health, gerontology, and telemedicine.



**Brook Henry, PhD**  
Mentor to  
Elizabeth Vásquez,  
DrPH

Dr. Henry is an Assistant Research Scientist in the Department of Psychiatry at UC San Diego. He received his PhD from the Department of Neurosciences in the UCSD School of Medicine, and currently serves as an investigator at the UCSD HIV Neurobehavioral Research Program and the Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research. His research activities include the study of cognitive deficits associated with neuropsychiatric disorders and neuroinflammatory diseases such as HIV, cross-species (rodent to human) models of behavior, the evaluation of heart rate variability as a measure of autonomic system dysfunction, the investigation of cannabis effects on the endocannabinoid system, and the application of mobile health (mHealth) tools to improve lifestyle behaviors (physical activity and diet) and monitor substance use. Dr. Henry is currently the principal investigator on an NINR-funded R01 intervention study designed to increase moderate physical activity and encourage a Mediterranean-style diet in persons living with HIV (iSTEP). He also serves as the principal investigator on two NIDA-funded R01 grants studying the effects of Δ9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD) on the pharmacokinetics of antiretroviral therapy and HIV-associated neuropathic pain.



**Marcia Holstad, PhD**  
Mentor to Anna  
Rutsova, PhD

Dr. Marcia Holstad, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN is a Research Professor, Professor Emeritus, and Marcia Stanhope Professor in Public Health, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. She received her doctorate in nursing with a specialty in health policy from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. She is semi-retired and currently directs the Enrichment Program for a P30 center and the Career Enhancement Core for the Emory SCORE. Her research interests include HIV/AIDS, HIV+ women, HIV and aging, adherence to antiretroviral medications, use of risk reduction behaviors, palliative care, and motivational interviewing. She has been a principal investigator on 5 NIH funding projects. Her most recent completed projects are: The Music for Health Project tested the efficacy of a smart phone mobile app that contains a music program designed to educate and motivate HIV+ persons to adhere to their antiretroviral medications and self-manage medication related symptoms and side-effects; The Living Well Project tested the efficacy of providing early palliative care plus motivational interviewing to persons with a new AIDS diagnosis. She has taught at the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing for over 30 years on all levels (BSN, MSN, PhD) and provided primary care to HIV+ women at a large infectious disease program in metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia. She is also trained in motivational interviewing and is a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT).



**Jennifer Iudicello, PhD**  
Mentor to Ankita  
Garg, PhD

Dr. Iudicello is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at UCSD with a background and expertise in clinical neuropsychology and longstanding research interests in the neurobiological, neurobehavioral, and everyday functioning consequences of substance use and HIV infection. Her current work focuses on identifying systemic and CNS biomarkers of injury and resilience to the effects of HIV and methamphetamine as well as the relationship of cannabis on inflammation and CNS consequences in people with HIV.

She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the SDSU/UCSD Joint Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology (Neuropsychology Track). She completed both her predoctoral and postdoctoral research training at the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Program and her clinical internship at the UCLA Semel Institute of Neuroscience and Human Behavior.



**Deborah Jones, PhD**  
Mentor to Samir  
Sabbag, MD

Dr. Jones is a clinical health psychologist who joined the faculty of the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at the University of Miami in 2003. Dr. Jones has provided clinical services to individuals living with HIV since 1985 and began conducting research on factors associated with optimal health outcomes among people living with HIV in 1994. She has been PI, Co-PI, and co-Investigator on national and international grants on HIV/AIDS in the United States, Zambia, South Africa, Argentina, and India. She has extensive experience in the conduct of clinical trials, intervention development, and assessment of HIV-infected and at risk women, men, and couples. She is recognized for her work in adherence to HIV treatment, reduction of sexual risk, HIV in pregnancy, and HIV in sub-Saharan African settings. Dr. Jones is PI on COPA2, Protect Your Family, and the MWCCS (MPI: Alcaide, Fischl, Jones), and co-investigator on the STAR and WHIMS Studies (PI: Alcaide). She is co-Director of the Center for HIV and Research in Mental Health: CHARM (PI: Safren).



**Mark Kuniholm, PhD**  
Mentor to Elizabeth  
Vásquez, DrPH

Dr. Kuniholm is an Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University at Albany School of Public Health. Dr. Kuniholm received a BA in Biology from Colorado College, an MS in Epidemiology from UC Davis, and a PhD in Epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where he also completed his postdoctoral work. Dr. Kuniholm's research interests include molecular, genetic, and clinical epidemiology studies in diverse populations, including studies of viral hepatitis and liver diseases in people living with HIV (PLWH), immune activation and inflammation, host genetic control of infectious diseases, cardiovascular disease risk, frailty and weakness. In addition to his role as an educator of applied epidemiology and epidemiology methods at UAlbany SPH, Dr. Kuniholm participates as a member of the NHLBI-supported Brooklyn Clinical Research site of the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study/Women's Interagency HIV Study Combined Cohort Study (MACS/WIHS CCS), the NIAID-supported Central Africa International Epidemiology Databases to Evaluate AIDS (CA-IeDEA) and an FIC-supported D43 training grant in HIV/AIDS public health and implementation science in the country of Georgia.



**Yong-Fang Kuo, PhD**  
Mentor to Xiaoying Yu,  
MD, PhD

Dr. Kuo is the Professor of Department of Preventive Medicine and Population Health and the director of the Office Biostatistics at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB). Dr. Kuo received her PhD in Biostatistics from the Ohio State University. Her research assesses patterns of care, treatment toxicities, and health outcomes using a variety of large data sets. She also examines health care delivery focused on hospitalist care and its impact, and the use and effectiveness of primary care provided by nurse practitioners for older adults. She has involved in several pharmacoepidemiology studies used Medicare or commercial insurance claims data. Recently, her NIH funded research focuses on effectiveness, toxicity and safety of opioid and benzodiazepine substitutes. Dr. Kuo is also the program director of UTMB T32 Health Service Research funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. As a biostatistician, she serves as the director of Biostatistics and Analysis Core for several center grants funded by NIH and Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas. She has been a biostatistics mentor for more than 100 trainees including junior faculty, pre-doc and post-doc fellows. Her expertise is in the analyses for comparative effectiveness research, pharmacoepidemiology, and health outcome studies.



**Scott Letendre, MD**  
Mentor to Josué Pérez Santiago, PhD, Jane O'Halloran, MD, Ankita Garg, PhD, & Xiaoying Yu, MD, PhD

Professor of Medicine (Infectious Disease) and Psychiatry in Residence at the University of California, San Diego who performs translational, patient-oriented research of the central nervous system complications of chronic infections, including HIV, HCV, and CMV. As part of a multidisciplinary research team, he conducts interventional trials focused on the prevention and treatment of neurocognitive and mood disorders as well as studies of the pharmacokinetics of antiretrovirals, the effects of comorbidities and substance abuse, and biomarker correlates of disease. Dr. Letendre is also former Chair of the Neurology Collaborative Science Group of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group and founding co-chair of the International Workshop on HIV & Aging.



**Tom Marcotte, PhD**  
Mentor to Caitlin Pope, PhD

Dr. Marcotte is Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego, and Co-Director of the Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research, which has conducted clinical trials of cannabis for almost 20 years, and has an active, ongoing portfolio exploring the effects of cannabinoids (plant-based, synthetic) in various medical/psychiatric conditions. He is currently the principal investigator on studies addressing cannabis for the treatment of pain, and the effects of acute cannabis use on driving performance. He has previously been co-investigator on cannabis studies addressing pain and spasticity in multiple sclerosis. He has been the PI on numerous HIV studies over the years, including projects aimed at examining ART initiation in India, the development of brief screening tools for HAND, and studies examining the impact of HAND on real-world functioning. Dr. Marcotte has developed techniques for assessing the most complex of everyday tasks, driving an automobile, and examined the types of deficits that may predispose an individual to impaired driving abilities. He has also designed tablet-based tools for assessing cognitive impairment. He co-edited the book *Neuropsychology of Everyday Functioning*.

Dr. Marcotte previously served as the Center Manager of the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center (1996-2018), and Co-Director of CHARTER (a national multi-site study of the CNS impact of treatments for HIV). Dr. Marcotte has been on the editorial boards of *Neuropsychology* and the *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*.



**Maria Marquine, PhD**  
Mentor to Josué Pérez Santiago, PhD

Associate Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Psychiatry, University of California San Diego; Director of Disparities Research in the Division of Geriatrics, Gerontology and Palliative Care; Deputy Director of the Sustained Training in Aging and HIV Research. Dr. Marquine's research centers on identifying psychosocial and biomedical determinants of neurocognitive and mental health outcomes among older Hispanics/Latinos living in the US, particularly those infected with HIV. She is a bilingual (Spanish/English) clinical scientist and neuropsychologist with expertise in cross-cultural neuropsychology research and disparities in cognitive aging among Hispanics/Latinos. She has led several projects aimed at developing neuropsychological assessment instruments in linguistically and culturally diverse populations. Much of her NIH-funded work has focused on understanding risk for neurocognitive impairment and decline in older Hispanics/Latinos with and without HIV. She has been a mentor in various training programs aimed at trainees from underrepresented backgrounds, spanning from high-school to early career faculty. She has served in various leadership roles, and is currently the Chair of the Science Committee of the Hispanic Neuropsychological Society, and a member of the American Psychological Association Committee on Human Research, as well as a member of the Cultural Interest Group of the International Neuropsychological Society.



**Alison Moore, MD**  
Mentor to Jessica Montoya, PhD & Michelle Odium, EdD

Alison A. Moore, MD, MPH, FACP, AGSF is a Professor and Chief of the Division of Geriatrics, Gerontology, and Palliative Care in the Department of Medicine. She holds the Larry L. Hillblom Chair in Geriatric Medicine and she has an adjunct appointment in Psychiatry. She is a geriatrician and a public health researcher. Her research has focused on a) the epidemiology and health-related effects of alcohol and other substances among diverse populations, b) developing and testing screening and brief interventions to reduce unhealthy alcohol use among older adults with multiple comorbid conditions, c) developing and testing community-partnered interventions addressing substance use in diverse populations including Latinos and older adults, including persons with HIV, and d) using technology to facilitate health in older adults. She was an expert reviewer for the 2017 US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement: Screening and Behavioral Counseling Interventions to Reduce Unhealthy Alcohol Use.

Dr. Moore also has a passion for mentorship and, in 2019, she was awarded the UC San Diego Health Sciences Faculty Excellence in Mentoring Award. She is MPI of an NIA-funded Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (P30AG059299), Co-Director of the UCSD Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) Program (T35AG026757), and Co-Director of an NIA-funded pre-and post-doctoral training program focused on older men and women (T32AG058529) and has been the recipient of a K24 Midcareer Award in Patient-Oriented Research from NIAAA (K24AA15957).



**David Moore, PhD**

Mentor to Annie Nguyen, PhD, Erin Sundermann, PhD, Elizabeth Vásquez, DrPH, Jessica Montoya, PhD, Alexis Bender, PhD, Upal Roy, PhD, & Judith Lobo, PhD

Professor of Psychiatry, UCSD. Dr. Moore is a licensed clinical psychologist with specialized training in neuropsychology and interventions research. Dr. Moore's HIV research has been funded by NIMH, NIDA, NIA and the California HIV/AIDS Research Program. In recognition of his research, mentoring, and service efforts for individuals living with HIV/AIDS, the American Psychological Association (APA) awarded him the 2013 Psychology and AIDS Emerging Leader Award. His research focuses on the neuropsychological and everyday functioning challenges of persons aging with HIV infection. Recently, he has been examining the protective factors that allow persons to successfully age with HIV as well as factors that may help us distinguish Alzheimer's Disease from HIV-Associated Neurocognitive Disorders. Dr. Moore is a member of the ACTG's Neurology Collaborative Science Group and a participating faculty member in the SD CFAR Health Equity Core.



**Raeanne Moore, PhD**

Mentor to Annie Nguyen, PhD, Caitlin Pope, PhD, Michelle Odium, EdD, & Mary Clare Masters, MD

Associate Professor of Psychiatry, UCSD. Dr. Moore's research focuses on innovative digital health technologies to improve assessment of daily, cognitive, and emotional functioning among older adults with chronic medical problems (e.g., HIV) and serious mental illness (e.g., schizophrenia, bipolar disorder). Dr. Moore's research is focused around three broad themes: 1) Creating new tools for digital brain research; 2) Using technology for remote patient monitoring and improving treatment outcomes; and 3) Developing mobile cognitive training interventions.

Dr. Moore is an investigator at the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Program (HNRP), faculty member in the SDSU/UCSD Joint Doctoral Program in Clinical Neuropsychology, and on the Board of Directors of UCSD's Mental Health Technology Center (MHTech).



**Frank Palella, MD**

Mentor to Mary Clare Masters, MD

Dr. Frank Palella is the Potocsnak Family Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago. He has been involved in HIV research and clinical care for over 25 years and has occupied leadership roles in several large prospective ongoing observational research cohorts of person living with or at risk for HIV infection. These include the CDC-sponsored HIV Outpatient Study (HOPS) for which he has served as principal investigator since 1994 and the NIH-sponsored study ACTG 5322 (HAILO Study) which is a longitudinal observational study of inflammation, immune activation, and clinical events among aging persons with HIV infection, for which he has served as co-chair since its inception. As an investigator for the NIH-funded Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) over the past 25+ years, he has served in multiple roles, including as chair (Clinical Outcomes Working Group, Renal Working Group) or member (Aging Working Group, Metabolic Working Group, Cardiovascular Working Group, Biomarker Working Group) of multiple committees focused on the chronic co-morbid illnesses associated with aging among persons with HIV.

His research has contributed to a better understanding of the epidemiology, clinical outcomes, and pathogenesis of aging-related chronic comorbidities among persons with HIV. In recent years, his research activities have been increasingly focused on aging-related chronic co-morbidities in persons with treated HIV infection, particularly cardiovascular, renal, metabolic and bone disease as well as functional status including frailty and disability. Of note, Dr. Palella first authored the 1998 new England Journal of Medicine article entitled, "Declining morbidity and mortality in an ambulatory HIV-infected population" which was the 1st report to document the dramatic clinical benefits of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART); this report remains the most widely-cited publication of the AIDS era. To date, he has authored over 250 articles in peer-reviewed biomedical publications. He remains an active clinician, caring for approximately 500 persons living with HIV.





**Molly Perkins, PhD**  
Mentor to Alexis Bender, PhD

Dr. Molly Perkins is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of General Medicine and Geriatrics, Department of Medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine. Dr. Perkins is a social gerontologist and medical sociologist with research interests in social determinants of health and disparities, aging in minority and special at-risk populations, functional wellness, and long-term care. She is a National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIH/NCMHD) Scholar and a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America. A key focus of her current work is on palliative care and chronic disease management, with a primary focus on special aging populations, including those aging with HIV. Dr. Perkins holds a joint appointment with Atlanta VA Medical Center as a research health scientist and is the Atlanta Site Director for Research for the Birmingham/Atlanta Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC). In addition, she is a member of the graduate faculty of the Emory Department of Sociology and has a secondary faculty appointment in the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory. Dr. Perkins co-directs the Scientific Working Group on HIV and Aging within Emory's National Institutes of Health (NIH) Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) and co-leads the national NIH Inter CFAR HIV and Aging Working Group. She also co-directs a newly established Edward R. Roybal Center for Translational Research in the Behavioral and Social Sciences focused on dementia caregiving at Emory University funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA).



**Lisa Renzi-Hammond, PhD**  
Mentor to Ankita Garg, PhD

Dr. Lisa Renzi-Hammond is an Associate Professor in the Institute of Gerontology at the University of Georgia, in the College of Public Health. She is also the Interdisciplinary Group lead for Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience in the Integrated Life Sciences program, Neuroscience Division. Dr. Renzi-Hammond specializes in sensory aging, sensory biomarkers of cognitive decline, cognitive aging and behavioral strategies (e.g., cognitive training, improving visual function, dietary intervention) for preventing cognitive decline. Dr. Renzi-Hammond is the Principal Investigator of the Human Biofactors Laboratory in the Institute of Gerontology and is the co-Director of the Cognitive Aging Research and Education (CARE) Center at UGA, which specializes in providing dementia prevention education throughout Georgia, increasing access to Alzheimer's disease and related dementias diagnosis in Georgia, referring persons living with dementia and their care partners to serviced in their communities, and creating opportunities for research participation for rurally located persons with dementias and their families.

**Hugo Rodriguez, MD**  
Mentor to Upal Roy, PhD

My overall interest is to apply different educational techniques in the field of biomedical sciences to promote the development of students. My main interest lies in evidencing teaching-learning methods useful for the positive development of graduates who will be competent at any position within the medical sciences, graduates that can think critically, analyze situations capably, and be able to efficiently solve problems. My objective is to obtain enough data that will be useful for us to improve the quality of our students and make them health professionals capable of entering postgraduate programs outside our university and proudly represent our institution.



**Leah Rubin, PhD**  
Mentor to Asante Kamkwalala, PhD

Dr. Leah Rubin is an Associate Professor of Neurology, Psychiatry, and Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Rubin received her BA from Franklin and Marshall University, a MA in Clinical Psychology from Loyola University Maryland, and a PhD and MPH from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Rubin's work is dedicated to improving the cognitive and mental health of a number of vulnerable populations including women and men living with HIV both nationally and more recently internationally, individuals with serious mental illness, dementia, and traumatic brain injury. Her broad training background allows her to use an interdisciplinary approach in her research program that incorporates epidemiological, mechanistic (e.g., structural and functional neuroimaging), and intervention science (e.g., pharmacologic challenge studies). Dr. Rubin's epidemiologic and mechanistic studies have been primarily conducted in the Women's Interagency HIV Study (WIHS). Dr. Rubin has also worked within other large-scale cohort studies including CNS HIV Anti-Retroviral Therapy Effects Research (CHARTER) cohort, Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS), Bipolar-Schizophrenia Network on Intermediate Phenotypes (B-SNIP), Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC), and Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI). More recently she has started to expand her work in the U.S. to Uganda and Zimbabwe. Dr. Rubin is an active member of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) Neurology Collaborative Science Group (NCSG), MACS/WIHS Combined Cohort Study (MWCCS) Neuropsychological Working Group, JH Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) Central Nervous System Dysfunction Scientific Working Group (SWG; co-director), the Retrovirus Laboratory in JHU Department of Molecular and Comparative Pathobiology, and the Canadian HIV-Ageing Multidisciplinary Programmatic Strategy (CHAMPS) in NeuroHIV.





Please see bio under "Alumni" section.

**Erin Sundermann, PhD**  
Mentor to Asante  
Kamkwalala, PhD



**Valerie Wojna, MD**  
Mentor to Josué  
Pérez-Santiago, PhD

I have been fortunate to work with my patients as a neurologist and as a clinical researcher. My clinical experience and personal commitment to help ameliorate health disparities, has led me to the study of HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders (HAND). I have been the PI of the Hispanic/Latino Longitudinal NeuroAIDS women cohort for the evaluation of HAND as part of the NeuroAIDS Specialized Neuroscience Research Program (SNRP). My areas of research experience address the impact of sex hormones, insulin resistance, oxidative stress, chronic inflammation, and biomarkers on cognitive performance among HIV-positive cisgender women.

Since 2011 we have been studying the effect of insulin resistance and neurocognitive performance in patients with HIV infection. Since then we have obtained an R21 (R21MH095524) and an R01 (R01NS099036) to study further the mechanisms involved in the secretion of the insulin receptor and its effect on cellular insulin resistance and neurocognitive impairment. Our preliminary data show that HIV tat alters the cellular splicing factors facilitating the release of the insulin receptor extracellularly. Since this receptor is functional (binds to insulin) it facilitates the development of cellular insulin resistance as determined by altered IRS-1 phosphorylation. We believe that the secretion of the soluble insulin receptor and its effects precipitate a continuous cellular (and neuronal) insulin resistance that eventually will synergize with other HIV pathological mechanisms such as chronic inflammation, oxidative stress, and neurotoxic effects of virotoxins with residual neuronal injury and cognitive impairment.



**Michael Yin, MD**  
Mentor to  
Michelle Odum, EdD &  
Stephanie Shiau, PhD

Dr. Yin's research is focused on the optimization of HIV treatment and care, especially through prevention of non-AIDS complications of HIV infection and antiretroviral therapy (ART). He has examined the epidemiology and pathogenic mechanisms of HIV associated bone loss in perinatally-infected children, adolescents, and postmenopausal women utilizing novel imaging techniques and translational bone cell assays to investigate dysregulation of bone metabolism associated with HIV infection and ART. Currently, he is investigating the impact of oral immune activation on periodontal health and alveolar bone loss in HIV-infected women. Dr. Yin has extensive interdisciplinary research experience in HIV. He is an active investigator in AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) and the Women's Interagency HIV Study (WIHS). Dr. Yin is a Co-Director of the Bio-behavioral Core, for the HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies, New York State Psychiatric Institute and Columbia University. Dr. Yin also is an Associate Program Director for the Fellowship Training Program in Infectious Diseases at CUMC.



**Maile Young  
Karris, MD**  
Mentor to Avery  
Matthews, MD

Dr. Karris is an Associate Professor in the Divisions of Infectious Diseases and Geriatrics at UCSD. Her clinical practice focuses on the care of people living with HIV and actively incorporates principles of geriatrics. Dr. Karris' research addresses clinical and translational questions at the intersection of aging with HIV, for example improving the management of chronic pain in older adults with HIV, evaluating the clinical impact of loneliness and social isolation, and implementing behavioral interventions to enhance reach and efficacy. Dr. Karris received a Butler-Williams Scholarship from the NIA in 2017 and a Grants for Early Medical/Surgical Specialists Transition to Aging Research (GEMSSTAR) to evaluate acceptance and commitment therapy in older persons with HIV and chronic pain. She also received a Tideswell Emerging Leaders in Aging awardee (Research cohort 2018-2019) for work to improve community input in research and is a Mayday Scholar. In recognition of her efforts in clinical and translational research she was selected as the Co-Director of the San Diego Center For AIDS Research (SD CFAR) Clinical Investigations Core, a role that oversees and fosters the performance of HIV research in San Diego. She also serves as a HIV consultant in SD CFAR's Implementations Science Hub focused on ending the epidemic. On a broader level, she is an elected member of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group End Co-infections and Co-morbidities Transformative Science Group and the Under-represented populations committee. She is a co-investigator on the North American AIDS Cohort Collaboration of Research and Design (NA-ACCORD), and is actively involved in the community through her service on San Diego county's Getting to Zero committee, and as a board member of Being Alive San Diego.



**Amanda Grethe,**  
**PhD**  
Mentor to Judy Lobo,  
PhD

Dr. Bischoff-Grethe received her Ph.D. in Computer Science with a focus upon Computational Neurobiology from the University of Southern California in 1998. She was a postdoctoral fellow and Assistant Project Scientist at UCSD before joining the UCSD faculty. She is currently an Associate Adjunct Professor in the Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Bischoff-Grethe is particularly interested in the brain's response to reward and punishment and how it relates to cognitive processing. Her research focuses upon brain function in adolescents and adults with eating disorders or histories of substance use using functional MRI, DTI, and other morphometric methods. Dr. Bischoff-Grethe's primary interest is reward and decision-making processing in both healthy and clinical populations using functional MRI. Currently, she leads studies examining how decision-making and probabilistic learning are altered due to the individual and combined effects of recent methamphetamine dependence and HIV infection. She also plays a prominent role in studies examining how frontostriatal processing is altered in individuals with an eating disorder. Given that eating disorders most often manifest during adolescence, a period of profound neurodevelopmental change in reward and cognitive control processes, a growing part of her research has emphasized the key differences in these processes in children and adolescents with an eating disorder. More recently, she has expanded her work to include both structural and functional connectivity analyses. Dr. Bischoff-Grethe's clinical interests involve using neuroimaging to identify the biological and cognitive processes underlying psychopathology. The identification of the neurophenotypes associated with clinical symptoms will aid in the development of more effective treatments.