

Gayla Ferguson, DrPH, MPH, CPH

Curriculum Vitae

Education

5/2016 – 5/2020	Doctor of Public Health - Community Health Practice University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) Houston, Texas
8/2009 - 5/2011	Master of Public Health - Community Health University of North Texas Health Science Center Fort Worth, Texas
8/2005 - 5/2009	Bachelor of Science - Health Science Baylor University Waco, Texas

Experience

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) Assistant Professor	Nov 2023-Present Houston, Texas
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) Program Manager	May 2016-Nov 2023 Houston, Texas
City of Houston Management Analyst	Feb 2014- May 2016 Houston, Texas
Houston Community College System Adult High School Staff	Sept 2011-Feb 2014 Houston, Texas
University of Houston-Texas Obesity Research Center Program Coordinator	Jun 2012-Dec 2012 Houston, Texas
All Smiles Dental Centers Community Outreach Manager	Jun 2011-Sept 2011 Houston, Texas

Research

Current

Past

0014734-1 Highfield (PI) 6/1/2023-8/31/2023

Accountable Health Communities Model Evaluation of Impact on Cost and Emergency Department Utilization

Population Health Fund

Role: Program Coordinator

Budget: \$22,669

1P1CMS331599-01-00 Highfield (PI) 5/01/2017-5/31/2023

Addressing social needs of high-risk patients through screening and navigation to community social service organizations.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Role: Program Manager

Budget: \$2.56M, Direct Costs \$ 1,967,887

0014517 Bernstam/Highfield/Hwang (Multi-PI) 12/01/2021-5/31/2023

Development of a Model to Predict Preventable Hospital Readmissions

Cullen Trust for Healthcare

Role: Program Coordinator

Budget: \$1,000,000 (SPH Budget: \$363,000)

0016001 Highfield (PI) 12/01/2020-11/30/2022

Training Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) to Implement CER in Primary Care Settings

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

Role: Subcontract Program Coordinator

Budget: \$55,698, Direct Costs \$39,784

R-1905-283125 Highfield (PI) 11/01/2019-10/31/2021

A Planning Grant for Activating Clinical-Community Navigation Intervention Development to Support the Accountable Health Communities Model.

Kresge Foundation

Role: Program Manager

Budget: \$349,000, Direct Costs \$314,000

No number Walton (PI) 12/01/2019-11/30/2020

A Planning Grant for Activating Clinical-Community Navigation Intervention Development to Support the Accountable Health Communities Model.

Episcopal Health Foundation

Role: Program Manager

Budget: \$75,000

1R18HS023255-01 Highfield (PI) 07/01/2014-06/30/2017

Evidence-based Dissemination for Mammography Adherence in Safety Net Communities.

Agency for Healthcare Research Quality

Role: Program Coordinator

Budget: \$1.493M, Direct costs \$1,179,739

Publications

Highfield, L., & **Ferguson, G.** (2025). Co-creation of staff training to address health-related social needs in emergencies. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 13, 1441368.

Roth, I., Tiedt, M., Brintz, C., Thompson-Lastad, A., **Ferguson, G.**, Agha, E., Holcomb, J., Gardiner, P. & Leeman, J. (2024). Determinants of implementation for group medical visits for patients with chronic pain: a systematic review. *Implementation Science Communications*, 5(1), 59.

Araya, A., Thornton, L. R., Kwon, D., **Ferguson, G. M.**, Highfield, L. D., Hwang, K. O., ... & Bernstam, E. V. (2023). Medication reconciliation during transitions of care across institutions: A quantitative analysis of challenges and opportunities. *Applied Clinical Informatics*, 14(05), 923-931.

Highfield, L., **Ferguson, G.**, & Holcomb, J. L. (2022) Barriers and Facilitators to Implementation of the Accountable Health Communities (AHC) Model: Findings from a Between-Site Qualitative Assessment of Implementation Strategies. *Frontiers in Health Services*, 90.

Holcomb J, **Ferguson G M**, Thornton L, Highfield L (2022). Development, Implementation, and Evaluation of Teach Back Curriculum for Community Health Workers (CHWs). Progress in *Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*.

Holcomb, J., **Ferguson, G. M.**, Thornton, L., & Highfield, L. (2022). Development of Training Curriculum to Improve Patient Communication Skills and Social Support Among Community Health Workers. *HLRP: Health Literacy Research and Practice*, 6(2), e142-e150.

Holcomb, J., Highfield, L., **Ferguson, G. M.**, & Morgan, R. O. (2022). Association of Social Needs and Healthcare Utilization Among Medicare and Medicaid Beneficiaries in the Accountable Health Communities Model. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 1-8

Holcomb, J. L., Walton, G. H., Sokale, I. O., **Ferguson, G. M.**, Schick, V. R., & Highfield, L. (2021). Developing and Evaluating a Quality Improvement Intervention to Facilitate Patient Navigation in the Accountable Health Communities Model. *Frontiers in medicine*, 8, 19.

Holcomb, J., Rajan, S. S., **Ferguson, G. M.**, Sun, J., Walton, G. H., & Highfield, L. (2021). Implementation of an Evidence-Based Intervention with Safety Net Clinics to Improve Mammography Appointment Adherence Among Underserved Women. *Journal of Cancer Education*, 1-10.

Holcomb, J., Rajan, S. S., **Ferguson, G. M.**, Sun, J., Walton, G. H., & Highfield, L. (2021). Peace of Mind Program (PMP): Impact of the Dissemination and Implementation of an Evidence-based Intervention (EBI) to Improve Mammography Appointment Adherence in Safety Net Clinics.

Holcomb, J., **Ferguson, G. M.**, Sun, J., Walton, G. H., & Highfield, L. (2021). Stakeholder Engagement in Adoption, Implementation, and Sustainment of an Evidence-Based Intervention to Increase Mammography Adherence Among Low-Income Women. *Journal of Cancer Education*, 1-10.

Holcomb, J., **Ferguson, G.**, Roth, I., Walton, G., & Highfield, L. (2021). Adoption of an evidence-based intervention for mammography screening adherence in safety net clinics. *Frontiers in public health*, 1624.

Highfield, L., **Ferguson, G.**, Walsh, R., Paret, C., Ganelin, D., Hwang, K., Morgan, R. (2020). A Conceptual Framework for Addressing Social Needs through Accountable Health Communities. *American Journal of Accountable Care*, 8, 15-23.

Gayla Ferguson and Linda Highfield. 2019. The Social Question. *Texas Health Journal* September issue.

Under Review

Ukhanova, M; Highfield, L., Krause, T., **Ferguson, G.**, Morgan, R. Hyper-polypharmacy and readmission risk among Medicare beneficiaries: post-discharge care's role. *The American Journal of Managed Care*, under review.

Professional Skills

- Qualitative Analysis: Nvivo, Atlas
- Statistical analysis: STATA, SPSS
- Geospatial Analysis: ArcGIS
- Systems Dynamics: Vensim
- Program Evaluation
- Program Implementation
- Implementation Technical Assistance
- Community Assessment
- Intervention Mapping
- Motivational Interviewing
- Quality Improvement
- Process Improvement: Lean Six Sigma

Conference Presentations

Ferguson, G.M. and Highfield, L. Accountable Health Communities Model: 2-Step Integrated Training Program. 77th Annual Association for Prevention Teaching and Research Meeting, Teaching Prevention 2020: Fostering Population Health and Advancing Prevention Science. San Antonio, Texas, March 2-4, 2020.

Ferguson, G. Peace of Mind Program: Findings and Next Steps. The Breast Health Collaborative of Texas. Breast Health Summit. October 28, 2019.

Asgarisabet, P, Rajan, S.S., Walton, G.H., Ferguson, G.M., and Highfield, L.D. Peace of Mind Program: Impact of the Dissemination and Implementation of a Mammography Adherence Evidence Based Intervention. Academy Health Annual Research Meeting. Washington, D.C., June 2-4, 2019.

Ferguson, G.M., Roth, I.J., Walton, G.H., and Highfield, L.D. Stakeholder Engagement and Implementation Challenges of the Peace of Mind Program. 76th Annual Association for Prevention

Teaching and Research Meeting, Teaching Prevention 2019: Building a New Paradigm for Population Health. Cleveland, Ohio, April 1-3, 2019.

Ferguson, G.M., Walton, G.H., and Highfield, L.D. Evaluation of the use of collective impact by Partners in Pink. 12th Annual Community Service Learning Conference: Diving Deep into Community. San Antonio, Texas, February 2, 2019.

Lecturing

Management and Policy Concepts in Public Health (PH 3715)
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston)
May 2025-August 2025

Geographic Information Systems (PHM/D 3918)
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston)
January 2025- May 2025

Management and Policy Concepts in Public Health (PH 3715)
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth)
August 2024-December 2024

Principles and Practice of Public Health (PHD/PHM 3620)
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth)
Instructor
August 2022- December 2022

Legal Issues in Health Care (PH 2211)
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth)
Topic: Stakeholder Engagement-September 25, 2019

Practice-based Methods and Design (PHD 2221)
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth)
Topic: Formulating Questions and Knowledge to Action-January 19, 2022
Topic: Mixed Methods-March 23, 2022
Topic: Peer Review-April 13, 2022

Trainings Led

2022 Introduction to Implementation Science. Two-day intensive course on the fundamentals and practical applications of Implementation Science. Provided to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses via Prairie View A & M University College of Nursing Implementation Training Intensive for APRNs (7 trainees).

2021 Introduction to Implementation Science. Two-day intensive course on the fundamentals and practical applications of Implementation Science. Provided to Advanced Practice Registered

Nurses via Prairie View A & M University College of Nursing Implementation Training Intensive for APRNs (7 trainees).

- 2021 Patient Communication Skills for Health Literacy. Short course on active listening, teach back and action planning. Provided to community health workers at UTHealth Health Transformation Initiatives (10 trainees).
- 2020 Patient Communication Skills for Health Literacy. Short course on active listening, teach back and action planning. Provided to community health worker Managers at UTHealth Health Transformation Initiatives (7 trainees).
- 2020 Teach Back Training for Community Health Workers. Short course provided to community health workers at UTHealth Health Transformation Initiatives (7 trainees).

Student Mentoring

Student Name	Role	Term Graduated
Rotich, Pauline	Dissertation Committee	
Gaspar, Awanee	Thesis Committee	
Melvin, Nakaya	Advisor/Dissertation Committee	
Deshpande, Sanjana	Advisor	
Okolo, Dubem	Advisor	
Sorrentino, Bianca	Advisor	
Walker, Kennedy	Advisor	
Arain, Hufsa	Advisor	
Collins, Tejanae	Advisor	
DeClerk Jacklyn	Advisor	
Cruz, Crystal	Advisor	
McCallister, Katharine	Advisor	
Atuchi, Joyce	Advisor	
Garza, Janet	Advisor	
Apostol, Marianne Chrisette	Advisor	
Gutie, Jasmine	Advisor	
Duong, Dat	Advisor	
Lom, Dominique	Advisor	
Akwivu, Ebelechukwu	Advisor	

Honors and Awards

- 2020 Delta Omega Honor Society, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- 2016 New Student Scholarship, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- 2011 Delta Omega Honor Society, University of North Texas Health Science Center
- 2010 Dean's List, University of North Texas Health Science Center

2010 - 2011	School of Public Health Dean's Scholarship, University of North Texas Health Science Center
2011	Miller-Coors Scholarship, University of North Texas Health Science Center
2007 - 2008	Dean's List, Baylor University
2008	Delta Epsilon Iota Honor Society, Baylor University
2005 - 2011	Gates Millennium Scholar
2005 - 2009	President's Scholarship, Baylor University
2005	Valedictorian, Jesse H. Jones High School, Vanguard Program

Membership

Texas Public Health Association, Member	2010
Public Health Association, Member	2010
Public Health Community Service Organization, Member	2010
Wellness Task Force, Member	2009
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Member	2007

Licenses and Certifications

Program Management Professional Certification	In-progress
Lean Six Sigma - Green Belt	2016
Certification of Public Health	2010

Volunteer Experience

Susan G. Komen Coalition Member, Galveston, Texas	Current
Habitat for Humanity Volunteer, Houston, Texas	Current
Bethel Baptist Church Member and Coordinator, Houston, Texas	Current
American Heart Association Cultural Health Initiatives Intern, Fort Worth, Texas	1/2010 - 5/2011
Boys and Girls Club Volunteer, Waco, Texas	8/2007-5/5009
Salvation Army Volunteer, Waco, Texas	8/2007-5/5009