Curriculum Vitae

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Professor & Vice Chair,
Director, Center For Health Equity
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University Of Texas School Of Public Health

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Health disparities and behavioral epidemiology with a focus on food insecurity, chronic disease prevention, and oral health promotion among children and parents from low-income, ethnically diverse populations
- Social determinants of health and policy, systems, environment, individual impacts on social determinants of health
- Design, implementation, and evaluation of behavioral interventions promoting nutrition and physical activity in preschool, schools, and family- and community-based settings.
- Measurement of nutrition, diet and food insecurity among children and adults.

EDUCATION

2005	Ph.D. Epidemiology (minor: Biostatistics and Behavioral Sciences) The University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, Texas.
2001	Post-baccalaureate program in Human Nutrition and Foods and the Dietetic Internship Program University of Houston, Houston, Texas
1999	M.A. Physical Therapy, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. Thesis: "Neuromuscular Fatigue Mechanisms with Aging"
1996	B.Sc. Physical Therapy Seth G.S. Medical College, The University of Bombay, Bombay, India.

LICENSURE:

2002–present	Registered Dietitian in the State of Texas (RD# 927783) Licensed Dietitian in the State of Texas (LD# DTO6415)

HONORS AND AWARDS:

2025	**Nominee**, Outstanding non-profit researcher, Children At Risk
2025	**Recipient,** Research Mentor-Mentee Award, UTHealth Houston School of Public Health
2024	**Recipient,** Distinguished Lecturer, Department of Nutritional Sciences, University of Texas at Austin.

2024	**Recipient**, R. Palmer Beasley MD Faculty Innovation Award, UTHealth Houston School of Public Health
2024	**Honoree**, Sewa International Inc. Influencer Summit, Feb 2024
2022	**Recipient**, Kenneth Shine Academy of Health Sciences Education, Distinguished Teaching Professor, UT Systems.
2022	**Recipient**, Outstanding teaching and mentoring award, UTHealth School of Public Health
2021	**Nominee**, Outstanding non-profit researcher, Children At Risk
2021	**Recipient**, Eileen Campbell Vanguard Award, Girls Inc. Houston
2020	**Recipient,** McGovern Award for Outstanding Teaching, UTHealth School of Public Health
2019	**Nominee**, Kenneth Shine Academy of Health Science Education, UTHealth
2019	**Nominee,** Regent's Outstanding Teaching Award, University of Texas Board of Regents
2018	**Recipient,** Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Texas School of Public Health
2018	**Nominee,** Regent's Outstanding Teaching Award, University of Texas Board of Regents
2018	**Student Marshal and Runner-up**, John P. McGovern Outstanding Teaching Award, University of Texas School of Public Health
2017	**Outstanding reviewer**, American Journal of Preventive Medicine
2017	**Nominee,** Regent's Outstanding Teaching Award, University of Texas Board of Regents
2016	**Nominee,** Regent's Outstanding Teaching Award, University of Texas Board of Regents
2012	**Nominee**, Annual Excellence Award in Teaching, University of Texas School of Public Health
2007	**Recipient**, International Programs Award, University of Texas Health Science Center
2006	**Recipient**, Outstanding Teacher Award, College of Education, University of Houston.
2005	**Recipient**, Outstanding Student Award, Committee for Status of Women, University of Texas School of Public Health.
2005	**Recipient**, Research Day, Best Poster – 1st place award, University of Texas School of Public Health.
2004	**Recipient**, Adopt-A-Student scholarship award, University of Texas School of Public Health.
2004	**Recipient**, Book Fair scholarship award, University of Texas School of Public Health.
2001	**Recipient**, Roundtable for Women in Food Service, Scholarship award

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022 – present	***Director***, *Center for Health Equity;* Department of Epidemiology, Human Genetics and Environmental Science (EHGES), School of Public Health (SPH), University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth)
2022 – present	***Vice Chair***, Department of EHGES**,** SPH, UTHealth
2019 – present	***Full Professor with Tenure****;* Department of EHGES, SPH, UTHealth
2013 - 2018	***Associate Professor with tenure***; Department of EHGES
2007–2020	***Assistant Director***, Dietetic Internship Program, SPH, UTHealth
2007–2013	***Assistant Professor***, Division of Epidemiology, Human Genetics and Environmental Sciences, SPH, UTHealth
2005–2006	**Assistant Professor**, Department of Health and Human Performance and **Assistant Director**, Dietetic Internship program, University of Houston
2002–2005	**Consulting Clinical Dietitian**, Harris County Hospital District
2002–2005	**Visiting Assistant Professor of Nutrition** and **Assistant Director, Dietetic Internship program**, The University of Houston
2000–2001	**Research Assistant**, Human Nutrition and Foods Laboratory, University of Houston; mentor: Dr Kimberlee Matalon

1997–1999 **Graduate Research Assistant**, Electromyography Laboratory, The University of Iowa; mentor: Dr Martin Bilodeau.

1996–1997 **Clinical Physical Therapist**, Breach Candy Hospital, Mumbai, India

ACTIVE GRANT AND CONTRACT AWARDS

2025-2026 **25FIMPG1493760 Designing a multisite RCT to test a food is medicine intervention to prevent gestational diabetes among women at-risk**
Purpose: This is a planning grant to design a multi-center RCT to test the effectiveness of Food Is Medicine interventions reducing incidence of gestational diabetes among high-risk pregnant women.
Funding: American Heart Association
Role: Contact PI (MPIs: Ranjit, Yamal, Hollis-Hanson, van den Berg)

2025-2026 **25FIMPG1484954 Remote BP Monitoring and Evidence-Based Nutrition Interventions to Promote Brain Health Equity and Wellness after Stroke**
Purpose: This is a planning grant to design a multi-center RCT to test the effectiveness of Food Is Medicine interventions on hypertension control among post-stroke patients.
Funding: American Heart Association
Role: MPI (Contact PI: Dr. Anjail Sharrief)

2025 – 2028 **Comparative feasibility and effectiveness of medically tailored meals approaches for pediatric end stage kidney disease.**
Funding: NIDDK
Role: Subcontract PI (Prime: BCM)

2025-2027 **Evaluation of Small Places food prescription program**
Funding: The Episcopal Health Foundation
Role: MPI (Sharma/Ramphul)

2025 – 2027 **Produce Prescriptions for Hispanic adults with type 2 diabetes**
Funding: The Cigna Foundation
Role: MPI (Sharma/ Logan Thornton, DrPH)

2023 – 2028 **U54 – Center for Transformative Community-Driven Research to Prevent Obesity-related Cancer**
Project goal: To assess the impact of Brighter Bites on cardiometabolic health outcomes among children and parents living in Acres Homes, a persistent poverty area of Houston, Texas
Funding: NCI
Role: Subcontract PI of the R01 funded as part of the U54 (Prime: MD Anderson Cancer Center – McNeil/Basen-Engquist/Rechis)

2024 – 2026 **24RPGFIM1198187 Testing the impact of technology-based engagement strategies to improve adoption of medically tailored retail produce Rx**
Funding: American Heart Association
Role: Principal Investigator

2023 – 2025 **24RPGFIM1247873 Enhancing the effectiveness of home-delivery based Produce Prescription program implementation strategies**
Funding: American Heart Association
Role: MPI (MPI: Ranjit)

2020 – 2026 UG3DE029016/UH3DE029213: **CATCH Health Smiles randomized controlled trial for oral health promotion in elementary school children**

The goal of this project is to conduct a cluster randomized controlled trial to test the efficacy of an oral health promotion intervention among elementary school children in Texas.
Funding: NIDCR/NIH UG3/UH3
Role: Principal Investigator

2018-2026 **Effectiveness of the Brighter Bites Program Across Three Cities in Texas**
Funding: Brighter Bites
Role: Principal Investigator

2021-2026 **A Prescription for Health Living**
Funding: Harris County Hospital District
Role: Principal Investigator

2023-2023 **Evaluation of MCO-Food Bank Food Rx among high risk pregnant mothers**
Funding: Episcopal Health Foundation (EHF)
Role: Principal Investigator (coPI McPherson)

2021-2025 **Uncovering the long-term impact of oropharyngeal cancer and dysphagia on dietary quality and nutrition among veteran cancer survivors: the U-DINE Study**
Funding: US Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity/DOD (USAMRAA)
Role: Co-Investigator

2023-2025 **A systems approach to care coordination for social determinants of health**
Funding: Rockwell Fund, Inc. (ROCKFUND)
Role: Principal Investigator (coPI McPherson)

2023-2025 **HIE - Community Information Exchange - Demonstration Project**
Funding: The Cullen Trust for Health Care (CULLENTRUST)
Role: Principal Investigator (coPI McPherson)

2019-2024 **CTSA – Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences**
Funding: National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences/NIH/DHHS (NCATS)
Role: Co-investigator (PI: McPherson)

Past Funded

2023-2025 **Financial Coaching Pilot RCT**
Funding: Bank of America
Role: PI

2022 – 2024 **CDC Equity Response – Strengthening the CHW workforce ecosystem in the Greater Houston region**
The goal of this project is to mobilize partners and collaborators to advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19 health disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved in the greater Houston area.
Funding: CDC/City of Houston Health Department
Role: Principal Investigator (co-PI McPherson)

2022-2024 **Nurturing Healthy Teachers**
The goal of this project is to conduct a cluster randomized controlled trial to test the effectiveness of a multicomponent intervention combining access to produce, nutrition and wellness support on body weight and cardiometabolic outcomes among teachers employed at Head Start centers in Texas.0020
Funding: Vitamix Foundation
Role: Principal Investigator (MPI: Ranjit)

2023-2025 **HIE - Community Information Exchange - Demonstration Project**

Funding: Episcopal Health Foundation (EHF)
Role: Principal Investigator (coPI McPherson

2023-2024 **Harris Health PCORI HSII Capacity Building**
Funding: Harris Health System (HHS)/Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)
Role: Principal Investigator

2024-2025 **Harris Cares Produce Rx To Improve Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes In Low-Income, High-Risk Pregnant Mothers in Texas**
Funding: Walmart Foundation
Role: PI

2019-2025 **RADxUP I: SARS-COV2 Infection Patterns and Identifying Dynamic Disease Hotspots in Racially Diverse Neighborhoods in South Texas - CTSA**
The goal of this project is to understand COVID-19 testing patterns among underserved and vulnerable populations; strengthen the data on disparities in infection rates, disease progression, and outcomes; and develop strategies to reduce the disparities in COVID-19 testing.
Funding: National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences/NIH/DHHS (NCATS)
Role: Co-Investigator

2022-2023 **A Multi-Level Community Health Worker Intervention Will Reduce Food Insecurity/Nutritional Deficiency and Improve Social Connectedness/Quality of Life Among Formerly Homeless Individuals Living in Permanent Supportive Housing**
Funding: Methodist Hospital Research Institute (MTDHRI)
Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Hamilton)

2022-2023 **Financial coaching and lifestyle intervention for diabetes prevention in low-income families**
Funding: University of Texas Foundation, Inc. (UTFOU)/Bank of America Foundation (BOFA)
Role: Principal Investigator

2021-2023 **A Community Information Exchange to coordinate care to mitigate social determinants of health in Greater Houston: An initiative of the Health Equity Collective**
The primary goal of the project is to develop a Resource Data Infrastructure for the greater Houston area to ensure that a consistent and reliable directory information about health, human, and social services is accessible through many different information systems and institutional contexts, in accordance with the diversity of the Health Equity Collective members' needs.
Funding: BCBSTX Healthy Kids Healthy Families
Role: Principal Investigator (co-PI McPherson)

2021-2023 **Community-Based Workforce Development and Mobilization to Increase COVID-19 Vaccination Equity in Texas**
Funding: Health Resources & Services Administration/DHHS (HRSA)
Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Fernandez)

2019-2023 **Improving the health of Americans through prevention and management of diabetes, heart disease, and stroke**
Funding: Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)/Centers for Disease Control & Prevention/DHHS (CDC)
Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Fernandez)

2020-2023 **Nourish Program**
Funding: Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC)
Role: Co-Investigator

2021-2023 **Community Information Exchange (CIE) Data Governance**

The purpose of this project is to support development of actionable governance and financial sustainability structures essential to the Health Equity Collective's progress towards a functional Community Information Exchange.
Funding: Episcopal Health Foundation (EHF)
Role: Principal Investigator (coPI McPherson)

2021-2023 **Harris Cares: Embrace HOPE (Healing, Opportunity, Prosperity, Equity)**
Funding: Harris County Public Health (HCPH)/Centers for Disease Control & Prevention/DHHS (CDC)
Role: Co-Investigator

2021-2023 **MD Anderson Acres Homes Nutrition Initiative**
Funding: University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC)
Role: Principal Investigator

2018 – 2023 **Development and Validation of a Measure of Organizational Readiness (motivation x capacity) for Implementation**
R01 CA228527-01A1
The purpose of this study is to validate a novel measure of organizational readiness to implement health promotion programs in clinic and community settings.
Funding: NIH
Role: Co-investigator (PI Fernandez/Brandt)

2020-2023 **Affordability Cares**
The Nourish Program at UT HSC Houston helps to break through obstacles to help our communities and health care professionals harness the power of what grows all around us. This first-of-its-kind initiative educates and equips participants with the tools, knowledge, and hands-on experience necessary to prevent and address nutrition-related chronic diseases, such as type 2 diabetes.
Funding: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Texas
Role: Co-investigator (PI McWhorter)

2022-2023 **Capacity-building and expansion of culinary medicine programming**
Funding: Harris Health System
Role: Principal Investigator

2022 **Harris Health System-UTHealth Partnership on Improving Health Care Quality and Equity for Vulnerable Populations**
The goal of this initiative is establish a healthcare-academic institutional partnership to develop an integrated joint platform for improved health services delivery and outcomes with the goal of improved health equity
Funding: PCORI
Role: Project lead/Principal Investigator

2020-2022 **Produce Rx: A Prescription for Healthy Living**
To conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the food prescription programming in Harris County to assess its impact on cardiometabolic outcomes. We will analyze the process and outcome evaluation data collected as part of these efforts, and also analyze impact on healthcare costs.
Funding: Rockefeller Foundation
Role: Principal Investigator

2020-2021 **Harris County COVID**
The goal of this project is to provide ongoing COVID-19 Community Spread survey program for Harris County for the term beginning November 10, 2020 and ending 12/31/2021
Funding: Harris County Public Health
Role: Co- Investigator (PI: Otto)

2020-2021 **COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2 infection surveillance of high-risk community members in the Houston area**
Funding: UTHealth CCTS
Role: Co-investigator (PI: Dr. Blake Hanson)

2020-2021 **Formative evaluation to develop CATCH the Rainbow intervention to improve feeding practices for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder**
Funding: UTHealth School of Public Health
Role: Principal Investigator

2020 **COVID 19 Symptom Tracking Surveillance in Texas**
Funding: UTHealth CCTS
Role: PI (MPI: Dr. Bijal Bala)

2018-2020 **Evaluation of the Early Learning Healthy Teachers Program**
The goal of this project is to conduct a randomized controlled trial to evaluate an online worksite-based health promotion program to promote healthy behaviors among early care education center teachers.
Funding agency: Vitamix Foundation
Role: Principal Investigator

2018 – 2020 **Healthy Eating Active Living at Harris Health**
The purpose of this study is to integrate a systems-level approach for chronic disease prevention in the Harris Health Lyndon B. Johnson hospital.
Funding: Smith Foundation
Role: Principal Investigator

2017-2018 **NIH NIDCR R34 – CATCH Health Smiles oral health promotion planning grant**
The goal of this planning grant is to develop and conduct feasibility testing of a school-based oral health promotion intervention to prepare for a subsequent UG3/UH3 cluster randomized controlled trial.
Funding: National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research
Role: Principal Investigator

2014-2019 **UTSPH/GVSU Multimodal MCH Training Program**
This HRSA funded training grant aims at improving educational opportunities for students enrolled in the maternal and child health concentration at UTSPH
Funding: HRSA
Role: Mentor

2017-2018 **Nourishing the Community**
The goal of this project were to adapt and implement a community-based cooking program in community centers in the Houston area
Funding: Allen Foundation
Role: Co-investigator (PI: Hoelscher)

2015 – 2017 **NIH R21 - PALS-CATCH for obesity prevention among at-risk toddlers**
The goal of this project is to pilot test, using a randomized controlled trial design, the feasibility and effects of a home visitation parenting program to improve overweight and obesity among at-risk toddlers.
Funding: NIH R21 National Heart Lung and Blood Institute
Role: Principal Investigator (MPI – Susan Landry

2014 – 2019 **UTHealthy Eating and Active Living for Pregnant Women and Babies**
The goal of this project is to implement and evaluate a program to promote diet and physical activity in pregnant women and mothers with infants (0-1y).

Funding: UT Physicians, 1115 Medicaid waiver: Texas Health Transformation and Quality Improvement Program.
Role: Principal Investigator

2017-2018 **Evaluation of the Early Learning Healthy Teachers Program**
The goal of this project is to conduct a pilot evaluation of an online worksite-based health promotion program to promote healthy behaviors among early care education center teachers.
Funding agency: Vitamix Foundation
Role: Principal Investigator

2015 – 2017 **TMC O2**
The goal of this project is to conduct a comparative effectiveness trial of commercially available
Weight loss programs to reduce obesity among employees.
Funding: Texas Medical Center Inc.
Role: Principal Investigator

2015 – 2017 **BUILD – Building a healthy and sustainable food system in North Pasadena**
The goal of this project is to conduct an evaluation of a collective impact model to improve food systems in North Pasadena, Texas.
Funding: MD Anderson Cancer Center and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Role: Principal Investigator

2011 - 2015 **CDC, DP11-007 - A Systems Approach to Obesity Prevention in Underserved Children in Texas**
The goal of this large demonstration project is to develop, implement and evaluate an integrated, systems-oriented Obesity Care Model for underserved children aged 2-12 years old. For this project, I led the preschool primary prevention implementation and evaluation effort.
Funding: Centers for Disease control and Prevention
Role: Co-investigator; PI: Dr. Deanna Hoelscher

2008 - 2013 **NIH/NCI 1RO1CA149643-01- Lunch in the Bag: Packing more fruits, vegetables, grain in preschool sack lunches**
The purpose of this RO1 study is to determine the effectiveness of a parent-based intervention to increase the fruits, vegetables and whole grain content of preschool sack lunches.
Funding: National Cancer Institute, NIH
Role: Co-investigator; PI: Dr. Deanna Hoelscher

2014 – 2015 **National Early Care & Education Learning Collaboratives (ECELC), Let's Move! Child Care (LMC**
The goal of this project is to evaluate and analyze Let's Move! Child Care, a self-guided tool for child care providers to develop best practices for nutrition and physical activity in their centers.
Funding: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – sub-contract with Nemours
Role: Principal Investigator

2012-2013 **Shape Up Houston Texas Medical Center Obesity Prevention Evaluation Study**
The goal of this 2-year project is to evaluate the effectiveness of hospital-based obesity prevention initiatives using social marketing strategies for their employees.
Funding: Shape Tomorrow non-profit organization
Role: Principal Investigator

2012 – 2014 **The Quest to Lava Mountain: evaluating video games for dietary change in children**
The goal of this 18-month project is to evaluate the effect of a video game in promoting healthy dietary habits among 3rd grade children in Texas.
Funding: The Cooper Institute/The Safeway Foundation
Role: Principal Investigator

2013 **Factors Related to Readiness and Capacity for Bringing about Organizational Change to Prevent Childhood Obesity in Early Care and Education**
This is a 2-month subcontract (August to September 2013) to develop an organizational readiness scale for use in early care and education settings.
Funding: Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition/ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Role: Principal Investigator

2012 – 2013 **ACE for Health - Access, Continuity and Education to increase fruit and vegetable intake in children.**
The goal of this pilot project is to evaluate the effect of an intervention increasing access to fruits and vegetables coupled with food literacy among 3rd grade children from low-income populations.
Funding: Texas Children's Hospital/Blue Cross Blue Shield
Role: Principal Investigator

2008-2011 **Head Start on Healthy Living**
The purpose of this federally-funded project is to implement and evaluate the CATCH Early Childhood program in preschool children enrolled in Head Start and their parents.
Funding: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
Role: Principal Investigator

2007 - 2011 **Cardiovascular Cell Therapy Research Network (CCTRN)**
The purpose of this study is to determine the efficacy of cell therapies in treatment of patients with heart failure.
Funding: National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, NIH
Role: Co-investigator; PI: Dr. Lemuel Moye'

2010-2011 **Evaluation of validity and reliability of NUTRIGRAM questions on nutrition knowledge, eating behaviors and attitudes.**
The purpose of this project is to conduct reliability/validity testing of a new instrument, NUTRIGRAM, for evaluating dietary habits of elementary school children.
Funding: The Cooper Institute
Role: Co-Investigator; PI: Dr. Deanna Hoelscher

2008-2010 **Coordinated Approach to Child Health in Underserved Populations (CATCH UP)**
The purpose of this project is to develop and pilot test the CATCH Early Childhood program in preschool age children and their parents in Head Start
Funding: University of Texas, School of Public Health PRIME awards
Role: Principal Investigator

2008 - 2009 **P.L.A.N.T Gardens –Preschoolers Learning About Nutrition Through Gardens.**
The purpose of this study is to develop and test a classroom garden curriculum for children ages 3-5 years enrolled in Harris County Department of Education Head Start.
Funding: General Mills Foundation, Champions for Healthy Kids
Role: Co-principal investigator

2007-2008 **Reliability and validity of self-report measures of dietary intake among urban youth in Delhi, India.**
The purpose of this study is to determine the prevalence of obesity among secondary school children in Delhi, India as well as to evaluate their dietary habits using a self-report measure of dietary intake.
Funding: International Programs Award, UTHSC
Role: Principal Investigator

2005-2006 **Annual Faculty Development Initiative Program (FDIP) grant**
The purpose of this project was to develop and test a novel method of course delivery using electronic media to university students.
Funding: The University of Houston
Role: Principal Investigator

2005-2008 **Behavioral Opportunities Uniting Nutrition Counseling and Exercise (BOUNCE)**
The purpose of this study was to conduct a behavior-based obesity prevention intervention among adolescent Hispanic girls and their mothers.
Funding: Kraft Foods Inc. & The University of Houston.
Role: Co-Investigator

LEADERSHIP ROLE IN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES:

2024 – present **Member, Leadership Council, Office of Population Health and Implementation Science, UTHealth Houston**

2022 – present **American Heart Association Research Planning Group (https://www.heart.org/en/professional/food-is-medicine-initiative/meet-our-leadership-and-participants)**
The Food is Medicine Initiative, announced in September 2022 by the American Heart Association and The Rockefeller Foundation seeks to provide the large-scale clinical evidence required to ensure patients receive medical prescriptions for healthy food to help prevent and manage chronic disease. I serve on this research planning group, and lead the subcommittee for the field infrastructure of this group.

2018-present **Health Equity Collective** (https://sph.uth.edu/research/centers/dell/hec/)
The Health Equity Collective is a multi-sector effort focused on creating a more equitable health ecosystem in Greater Houston. The Collective has over 800 members, representing over 200 organizations and more than 50 coalitions, aligned with a shared mission to establish an impactful, sustainable, data-driven system to promote health equity and address the social drivers of health outcomes. Through this data sharing ecosystem, we aim to implement a comprehensive population-level approach to understand and effectively and efficiently address the social determinants of health (SDOH) across Greater Houston communities.
Role: Founding co-lead of the Collective representing UTHealth (other co-lead: Heidi McPherson)

2022 **Harris Health System-UTHealth Partnership on Improving Health Care Quality and Equity for Vulnerable Populations**
The goal of this initiative is to establish a healthcare-academic institutional partnership to develop an integrated joint platform for improved health services delivery and outcomes with the goal of improved health equity
Role: Project lead

2019-present **Be Well Acres Homes initiative (**https://www.mdanderson.org/research/research-areas/prevention-personalized-risk-assessment/be-well-communities/be-well-acres-homes.html)
Be Well™ Acres Homes is an initiative of MD Anderson in collaboration with Harris Health System, Memorial Hermann Community Benefit Corporation, UTHealth School of Public Health, and more than 30 community organizations united together with residents of Acres Homes.
Role: Backbone co-lead representing UTHealth School of Public Health

2021-present **Pediatric Population Health initiative, UTHealth McGovern Medical School, Department of Pediat and School of Public Health**
Developing strategic research partnerships around pediatric population health, and family medicine between two schools of UTHealth.
Role: Member, partnership leadership team

2012-present **Brighter Bites non-profit organization** (www.brighterbites.org)
Brighter Bites is a 501c3 non-profit organization that aims to create communities of health through fresh food by improving access to fresh produce and nutrition education in low-income communities. This evidence-based program is disseminated nationally across nine cities in the United States and has cumulatively distributed over 50 million pounds of produce along with nutrition education to over 500,000 families since 2012.
Role: Co-founder of Brighter Bites and member, Board of Directors

CONSULTANCY:

2020 – 2022 **Member,** Expert Working Group on Food Insecurity, Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition

2018-present **Member,** Technical Advisory Committee, Public Health Foundation of India, Delhi, India
"Implementing a Settings Based Health Promotion Intervention for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)".

2015 – 2017 **Research Advisor**, Project Fresh, MD Anderson Cancer Center
The role of this consultancy was to provide support for Project Fresh, a randomized controlled trial to evaluate the impact of a church-based food co-op in low-income communities
(PI: Dr. Lorna McNeil Haughton).

2015 – 2016 **Research Advisor**, CHILDREN AT RISK
The role of this consultancy is to direct the Center for Parenting and Family Well Being at CHILDREN AT RISK and provide overall strategic and scientific support to the organization.

2014 – 2015 **Research Advisor,** Healthy Living in India
The goal of this project is to develop and evaluate a comprehensive, multifactorial program to prevent type 2 diabetes among children and families in India.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS:

***indicates mentored students or post-doctoral research fellows on manuscripts**

Accepted or Under Review

Mathur M*, Mofleh D, McKay S, Markham C, Marshall A, Li R, Ernest D, **Sharma SV**. Scoping Review of the Sociodemographic Factors Impacting the Timing of Screening, Evaluation Referral, & Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder Among Children in the United States. Accepted at Journal of Child Health Care.

Mathur M*, Tang J, Markham C, McKay S, Li R, Ernest D, **Sharma S.** A qualitative analysis of pediatricians' perspectives regarding barriers, facilitators, and strategies for providing timely autism spectrum disorder screening and diagnosis. Under review at the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders.

Hearne K*, Markham C, Almohamad M, Pomeroy M, **Sharma SV**. Does variety matter? Relationship between variety of fruits and vegetables and participant attendance in a school-based produce co-op. Under review

Hoelscher, DM, McWhorter JW, Marshall A, Weston S, Moore L, **Sharma SV**. Nourishing the Community: A Pilot Study of Culinary Nutrition with Community Health Workers in Predominantly Low-Income Populations. Under review.

Parthasarathy N*, Ranjit N, Markham CM, Chuang RJ, Pomeroy M, Noyola J, **Sharma SV**. Home food environment of low-income households with elementary-aged children in the United States before and during the COVID-19 pandemic – A serial cross-sectional analysis. Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Under review.

Parthasarathy N*, Markham CM, Ranjit N, Chuang RJ, Choudary S, **Sharma SV**. Dietary behavior among elementary school children in the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic: A scoping review. Under review

Tennyson SV*, McPherson H, John JC, Guerrero R, Durand P, **Sharma SV**. Strengthening Community Health Workers' Workforce Advocacy Using Journey Mapping. Plos One. Under review.

Ernest D, Dave J, Onugha E, Singh B, **Sharma SV**. Food Insecurity & Cardiovascular Kidney Metabolic Syndrome-related Conditions Among Adults in the United States: A 2015-2020 NHANES Analysis. Under review.

Published or in press:

2025

1. Thompson AMV, McKay S, Testa A, Bluth E, Harris K, Singleton A, McPherson HH, Aitken M, Abbott SB, Nieves M, Monroe L, Stratemann C, Jalaparthi S, **Sharma SV**. Framework, Development and Creation of a Community Advisory Board to Guide the Formation and Oversee the Implementation of the Houston—Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program. Journal of Clinical and Translational Science. In press.
2. John JC, Sharma SV, Mathur M, Liaw W, Stotts A, Northrup T, Murphy T. Cumulative burden of non-medical drivers of health and their associations with hospital utilization. AJMS. In press, 2025
3. John JC, Murphy T, Zientek E, Nguyen TA, Liaw W, Burnett C, Aitken M, **Sharma SV.** Efficacy of Medical Legal Partnerships to Address Health Harming Legal Needs: A systematic review of experimental studies in the field. 2023. American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine, in press.
4. Manduchi B, Sandulache VC, Tark JY, **Sharma SV**, Li R, Roller E, Bevelhimer A, Hutcheson KA, de Oliveira Otto MC. Examining the Relationship Between Dysphagia, Eating-Related Symptoms, and Diet Quality Among Oropharyngeal Cancer Patients During Critical Stages of Cancer Survivorship: The U-DINE Study. Head Neck. 2025 Oct;47(10):2816-2826. doi: 10.1002/hed.28206. Epub 2025 Jun 2. PMID: 40452385; PMCID: PMC12354315.
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Published Thesis and Dissertation:

Sharma, SV (2005). Psychosocial and environmental predictors of calcium intake, physical activity and bone health in adolescent girls. The University of Texas, School of Public Health Library, Ph.D. dissertation
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Book Chapters:

Garza JC, Murray NG, **Sharma S**, Drenner K, Tortolero S, Taylor W. Social and psychological wellbeing, physical activity and fitness in youth. In W. van Mechelen (Ed.) *Oxford Textbook of Pediatric Exercise Science and Medicine (2nd Edition)*. Oxford, U.K.: Oxford University Press.

Published Opinion editorials (op-ed)

Sharma SV. Gun violence leaves us desensitized to bloodshed. Houston Chronicle, Wednesday, October 12, 2017. https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/Sharma-Gun-violence-leaves-us-desensitized-to-12273967.php
Sharma SV. Eliminating hunger and food waste in the U.S. is an achievable goal. *Houston Chronicle,* Wednesday, October 26, 2016. http://www.chron.com/opinion/outlook/article/Sharma-Eliminating-hunger-and-food-waste-in-the-10415725.php
Sharma SV. 'There's an active shooter in our neighborhood'. *Houston Chronicle*, October 1, 2016. http://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/Sharma-There-s-an-active-shooter-in-our-9525014.php

INVITED SPEAKER

1. Invited speaker, Food As Medicine Summit, Chicago, May 2025
2. Invited speaker, AI in healthcare, TMC-Rice, Houston, April 2025
3. Invited speaker, Leadership Houston symposium, Houston, TX, October 2024.
4. Invited speaker, Department of Nutritional Sciences, University of Texas at Austin, September 2024.
5. Invited panel speaker, Red BAMX annual conference, Mexico City, Mexico, September 2024
6. Invited Speaker, Cardiometabolic syndrome conference, Texas Heart Institute, August 2024
7. Panel speaker, Houston Health Department, Third Annual Access and Equity Symposium, May 2024
8. Invited speaker, Managed Care Organization Learning Collaborative, April 2024
9. Invited Speaker, Cardiology Grand Rounds, Texas Heart Institute, May 2024
10. Invited Panel speaker, Food As Medicine Summit. "Power of Partnerships in the Food as Medicine Movement". May 21, 2024
11. Panel speaker. CDC Foundation. Webinar. Coming Together to Address Hunger and Support Healthy Communities, April 2024
12. Sharma SV. All Things Food – Food Is Medicine. Food Tank. SXSW, Austin March 6, 2024.
13. Sharma SV. Panel speaker: Vision to Action: The Power of Partnerships. CDC Foundation, March 2024
14. Invited panel speaker, American Heart Association, Healthcare x Food Initiative, Research Grantee Summit, Feb 2024
15. Panel speaker. Brighter Bites case study presentation. Harvard Business School, January 2024.
16. Sharma SV. Texas 2036. What does equity look like in action? 2023.
17. Sharma SV. Food Is Medicine. American Heart Association Food Is Medicine Summit. 2023.
18. Sharma SV. Nutrition in Medicine. McGovern Medical School. 2022

19. Sharma SV. Mitigating Food Insecurity and Related Social Drivers of Health to Achieve Health Equity. Baylor College of Medicine Grand Rounds. 2022
20. Invited speaker. **Sharma SV** & Pomeroy M. Brighter Bites. Harkin on Wellness, The Harkin Institute annual meeting. March 2021.
21. Invited speaker. **Sharma SV.** The Impact of Diet on Gut Health and Overall Wellness. UTHealth Spring Luncheon. February 3, 2020.
22. Invited speaker. **Sharma SV.** Prevention of Obesity and Cardiovascular Disease: Role of Nutrition and Diet. Preventive Cardiology Forum. February 1, 2020.
23. Invited workshop. McWhorter JW, **Sharma SV**, Hoelscher DM. "Culinary Dentistry: Incorporating Nutrition into Dental Education and School-Based Interventions". Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics 2019 Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo. October 28, 2019.
24. Invited speaker at the National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR). Sharma SV. "Measurement of social determinants of health as it relates to diet and high-risk populations". September 23, 2019.
25. Invited speaker. **Sharma SV.** My Journey in Public Health with Food. SEWA International non-profit organization. June 30, 2019.
26. Invited Speaker. **Sharma SV.** Food Insecurity, Food Systems and Health. University of Houston Food Conference, June 21, 2019.
27. Invited webinar. **Sharma SV,** McNerney T. Brighter Bites: The Not-So-Secret Formula to Creating Healthy Habits for Healthy Kids. Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE). September 13, 2018.
28. Invited panel member. **Sharma SV.** The Great Debate. Texas Medical Center Inc. Houston. October 25, 2018.
29. Invited speaker**. Sharma SV**. Food deserts and food insecurity. 2018 One Health Conference. September 15, 2018.
30. Invited panel member. Roundtable on "Addressing Obesity Through Portions", Georgetown Global Social Enterprise Initiative, Washington D.C, May 2018 and October 2018.
31. Invited speaker**. Sharma SV.** Brighter Bites – The Better We Nourish, The Brighter We Flourish. Produce Marketing Association, Annual conference, Monterey, CA, July 25, 2018.
32. Invited panel member, d18 Executive Innovation Lab on Diabetes and Pre-diabetes, The DiaTribe Foundation, September 7, 2017.
33. Invited keynote**. Sharma SV**. Employee Health. Houston Worksite Health Symposium. American Heart Association, April 20, 2017, Houston, Texas.
34. Invited speaker**. Sharma SV.** Brighter Bites. Lipman Produce, Annual Board meeting, March 12, 2017, Naples, Fl.
35. Invited speaker**. Sharma SV.** Brighter Bites to increase demand and intake of fruits and vegetables in underserved communities. Produce Marketing Association Annual Board meeting, Jan 20-21, 2017, Scottsdale, AZ.
36. Invited speaker**. Sharma SV**. Optimizing Systems to Address Food insecurity. Future of Healthy Children: Building Resilience and Mitigating Adversity in our Children, Families, and Communities, Symposium hosted by Texas Children's Hospital, Feb 16, 2017, Houston.
37. Invited expert testimony. **Sharma SV**. "Past, Present and Future of SNAP: Evaluating Effectiveness and Outcomes in SNAP-Ed". U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Agriculture. June 22, 2016.
38. Invited speaker. Sharma SV. "Childhood Obesity Prevention: A Paradigm Shift". Texas Osteopathic Medical Association (TOMA) Annual Meeting. San Antonio, June 5, 2014.
39. Invited speaker**. Sharma SV**. Journal of the Academy for Nutrition and Dietetics Board of Editors meeting. "Obesity prevention – a paradigm shift." Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo (FNCE), Houston, October, 2013.
40. Invited speaker**. Sharma SV**. "Evidence-based strategies for addressing obesity." Annual meeting, American Academy of Family and Consumer Sciences, Preconference Workshop, Houston, June 26, 2013.
41. Invited speaker**. Sharma SV**. "Obesity Prevention: A Paradigm Shift." Biomedical Technology Club, Houston Technology Center, Houston, May 7, 2013.
42. Invited speaker**. Sharma SV**. "Childhood Obesity: A Massive Public Health Issue (and what we can do to help)." Jewish Community Centers of North America Biennial Conference (New Orleans, LA), April 2012.
43. Invited speaker**. Sharma SV**. "Childhood Obesity: A Massive Public Health Issue (and what we can do to help)." Healthy Communities: The Intersection of Community Development and Health Conference. Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Houston, September 28, 2011.
44. Invited speaker**. Sharma SV.** "Proactive Approaches to Obesity Prevention: The Importance of Early Childhood Interventions." Partnership for a Healthy Texas, November 2011.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS AND WEBINARS

45. Sharma SV, Texas Consortium on non-medical drivers of health, Healthier Texas Summit, October 2023
46. **Sharma SV.** Strengthening the Community Health Worker Ecosystem, APHA 2022
47. **Sharma SV.** Developing A Federated CIE to Promote Health Equity in Greater Houston. APHA 2022.
48. **Sharma S.** Bala B. (August 2020). State of COVID-19 across Texas. Webinar, Healthier Texas Summit.
49. **Sharma S**, Taylor L. (June 2020). The Future of Food in Schools: Rounding Out What's Already Being Done in the School Cafeteria. Annual conference, Society of Behavioral Medicine.
50. **Sharma S**. Pomeroy M (July 2020). A Rapid Response to Food Insecurity and Other Social Determinants of Health During COVID-19. Webinar, Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living.
51. **Sharma S**. Kelder S. Nayak V, Whitaker-Williams A, Green S. (June 2020). How to Reopen K-12 Schools in the Safest Way Possible: A Path Forward for Education on COVID-19. Webinar, Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living.
52. **Sharma S.** Bala B. (April 2020). A Citizen's Science Approach to Surveillance of COVID-19 Symptoms in Texas: A Call to Action. Webinar.
53. **Sharma, S.,** Scott, L. (February 2020). Brighter Bites: Improving Community Health by Creating a New Generation of Produce Consumers. Oral presentation at the Association of SNAP Nutrition Education Administrators (ASNNA) Winter Conference in Arlington, VA.
54. **Sharma SV.** Tseng K. Food Rx: A Cross-Sector, Patient-Centered Prescription for Diabetes. America's Essential Hospitals. Webinar. January 22, 2020.
55. Chuang RJ. & **Sharma SV**. "An Early Care and Education Professional's Impact: Nourish Yourself and Create Healthy Futures" - A Pilot Program". American Public Health Association 2018 Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, CA, November 2018.
56. Invited webinar. Sharma SV, Danho M. HEAL – A natural experiment to promote obesity prevention behaviors among low-income pregnant women. Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living, UTHealth School of Public Health, May 20, 2018. https://sph.uth.edu/research/centers/dell/webinars/webinar.htm?id=b5d68d66-ab3f-4650-a134-1998de64383f
57. **Sharma SV**, Markham C., Chow J., Ranjit N, Pomeroy M, Raber M. Evaluating a school-based fruit and vegetable co-op in low-income children: a quasi-experimental study. American Public Health Association. Oral Presentation. November, 2016.
58. Alcazar, L, Lopez KK, Raber M, Markham C, **Sharma SV**. Brighter Bites Photovoice: Perspectives from Hispanic participating parents towards the Brighter Bites program. American Public Health Association. Oral Presentation. November, 2016.
59. **Sharma SV**. Food Insecurity: Hidden Hunger Among Young Children. Baylor College of Medicine, Invited speaker. Public Health Pediatrics Seminar, December 2015.
60. **Sharma SV**, Chuang RJ, Byrd-Williams C, Vandewater E, Butte N, Hoelscher DM. Evaluation of the CATCH Early Childhood program for obesity prevention among preschoolers in Texas: The TX CORD study. Oral Presentation, The Obesity Society, Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, October 2015.
61. **Sharma SV**. Childhood obesity prevention – a paradigm shift. Invited Key Note Speaker, annual meeting Texas Osteopathic Medical Association, San Antonio, Texas, May 2014.
62. Albus, K. **Sharma, S**. Markham, C. Helfman, L. Pomeroy, M. (2014, May). Process evaluation of Brighter Bites pilot study: A community-academic partnership promoting fruit and vegetable intake among low-income, minority populations. Oral presentation at the International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.
63. Invited webinar. Sharma SV, Moriera T, Pomeroy M. Brighter Bites: Helping families take CATCH home. December 10, 2014. https://sph.uth.edu/research/centers/dell/webinars/webinar.htm?id=a59da8e9-efc2-4dde-b248-56c7ec025818
64. Chen, N. Ranjit, N. Byrd-Williams, C. Roberts-Gray, C. Briley, M. Romo, M. **Sharma, S.** Hoelscher, D. (2014, May). Association between home food availability and food in sack lunches for Texas preschool children varies between healthy and unhealthy foods. Oral presentation conducted at the International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.
65. **Sharma SV,** Chuang RJ & Skala K. Oral Presentation: "Results of pilot testing CATCH Early Childhood in Head Start preschoolers in Texas." **Sharma SV ,** Chuang RJ & Skala K. Annual meeting, International Society of Behavior, Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA), Austin, TX, May 2012.
66. **Sharma SV,** Stigler M, Perry C, Bassi S, Gupta V, & Arora M. Oral presentation: "Dietary habits and their relationship to psychosocial factors and BMI vary by socioeconomic status among young adolescents in Delhi, India."

Symposium III, Annual meeting, International Society of Behavior, Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA). Austin, TX, May 2012.

67. Evans A, Jennings R, Smiley A, Medina J, **Sharma S**, Rutledge R, Stigler M, Hoelscher D. Placement of farm stands in low-income communities increases fruit and vegetable consumption among community residents. 139th Annual APHA Meeting. Washington DC, Oct 2011
68. Hedberg A, Lewis T, **Sharma SV**. Oral presentation: "PLANT Gardens: Preschoolers Learn About Nutrition Through Gardens." Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo (FNCE) annual conference, Denver, CO, October, 2009.
69. **Sharma SV**, Hoelscher DM, Kelder SH, Diamond P. Oral presentation: "A path analysis to identify the psychosocial factors influencing physical activity and bone health in adolescent girls: A cross-sectional study." International Society of Behavior, Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA), annual meeting 2007, Oslo, Norway, June 2007.

70. **Sharma SV**. Oral presentation: "Management plans for the University of Houston Dietetic Internship - what has worked for us and why." Annual ADA Dietetic Educators Practice (DEP) group meeting (DEP IV area meeting), Houston, TX, March 2005.

PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS

1. Aiyer J, Bello R, Brewster A, Galindez M, Oestman K, Young R, **Sharma SV**. "A Pilot Food Prescription Program Promotes Produce Intake and Decreases Food Insecurity." American Public Health Association 2018 Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, CA, November 2018.

2. Chuang RJ., **Sharma SV**., Danho M., Bounds, GW. "Pregnant Women's Intention to Breastfeed and their Breastfeeding Practice after Delivery - Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Program. American Public Health Association 2018 Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, CA, November 2018.

3. Zhang X, Cazacu I, Sharma SV, Edwards B. Physical activity and overall survival in older adults in US, findings from National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). American Public Health Association 2018 Annual Meeting and Expo, San Diego, CA, November 2018.

4. Massie AW, Ranjit N, Hoelscher DM, Byrd-Williams C, Vandewater EA, **Sharma SV**, Butte NF. Are Parent Food Rules Associated with Child Dietary Intake and Weight among Children in Low-income, Ethnically Diverse Schools in Texas? Poster presentation at the International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA) Meeting, Cape Town, South Africa, June 8-11, 2016.

5. Massie AW, Ranjit N, Hoelscher DM, Byrd-Williams C, Vandewater EA, **Sharma SV**, Butte NF. Are Parent Food Rules Associated with Child Dietary Intake and Weight among Children in Low-income, Ethnically Diverse Schools in Texas? Poster presentation at the 2016 McGovern Award Lecture Series student poster competition in Houston, TX, February 16, 2016.

6. Hashemi MB, **Sharma SV**, Byrd-Williams C, Vandewater EA, Pont SJ, Durand CP, Oluyomi AO, Butte NF, Hoelscher DM. Socio-Demographic Characteristics Associated with Parental Food Store Selection in a Low-income, Ethnically Diverse Population. Poster presentation at The 2016 McGovern Award Lecture Series student poster competition in Houston, TX, February 16, 2016.

7. Hashemi MB, Vandewater EA, **Sharma SV**, Pont SJ, Butte NF, Hoelscher DM. Associations between Parent Food Store Selection and Food Served in the Home. Poster presentation at The 2016 McGovern Award Lecture Series student poster competition in Houston, TX, February 16, 2016.

8. Byrd-Williams C, **Sharma SV**, Chuang RJ, Vandewater E, Butte N, Hoelscher DM Head Start teachers' perceptions of barriers to obesity prevention in the Texas Childhood Obesity Research Demonstration (CORD). Poster Presentation, The Obesity Society, Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, October 2015.

9. Chuang RJ, **Sharma SV**, Byrd-Williams C, Vandewater E, Butte N, Hoelscher DM. Evaluation of the CATCH Early Childhood Program Implementation Index in Head Start Children in Texas: The TX CORD Study. Poster Presentation, The Obesity Society, Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, October 2015.

10. Sharma SV, Markham C, Chow J, Pomeroy M, Raber M. A Comparative Effectiveness Study Of Brighter Bites: A School-based Food Co-op Providing Continuous Access To Fruits, Vegetables And Nutrition Education Among Low income Children And Their Families. Poster Presentation, The Obesity Society, Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, October 2015.

11. **Sharma, S**. Shegog, R. Pomeroy, M. Hoelscher, D. (2014, May). Usability of the Quest to Lava Mountain (QTLM): A serious computer game targeting healthy dietary habits in children. Poster presented at the International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.

12. Oluyomi, A. Byars, A. Durand, C. Byrd-Williams, C. **Sharma, S.** Hoelscher, D. Butte, N. Kelder, S. (2014, May). A Geographical Information Science (GIS) approach to conducting area-level comparative analysis of study areas in a community-wide obesity prevention intervention study - the case of Texas CORD. Poster presented at the International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.

13. **Sharma, S**. Markham, C. Helfman, L. Albus, K. Chuang, R.J. Pomeroy, M. (2014, May). Feasibility and acceptability of Brighter Bites, a program increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables and nutrition education among low-income children and their families. Poster presented at the International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.

14. Sweitzer, S. **Shreela, S.** Byrd-Williams, C. Romo Palafox, M.J. Bergez, E. Briley, M. (2014, May). How day care home owners view their role in preventing childhood obesity. Poster presented at the International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.

15. **Sharma, S.** Rashid, T. Chuang, R.J., Sweitzer, S. Byrd-Williams, C. Ranjit, N. Roberts-Gray, C. Hoelscher, D. (2014, May). Effect of 'Lunch is in the Bag' program on communication between parents, children and the children's early care and education centers (ECEC) around fruits, vegetables and whole grains. Poster presented at the International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.

16. Chuang, R.J. **Sharma, S**. (2014, May). The effectiveness of CATCH Early Childhood, a preschool-based intervention, to increase Moderate-to-Vigorous Physical Activity among preschoolers from low-income Hispanic and African-American populations. Poster presented at the International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.

17. Chuang, R.J. **Sharma, S**. (2014, May). Process evaluation of the physical education (PE) component in the CATCH early childhood program among teachers of preschoolers from low-income populations enrolled in Harris County department of education Head Start. Poster presented at the International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.

18. Farhat A*, **Sharma SV**, Wong W, Abrams S, Barlow SE. Long-term impact of a weight-management summer camp among obese children**.** Accepted for poster presentation at the annual conference for The Obesity Society, Atlanta, November 2013.

19. **Sharma SV**, Jyothi V*, Baun WB, Perkison W, Griffith J, Montgomery C, Hunnicutt M, Masani S, Pompeii L. Environmental and policy level support for nutrition and physical activity among hospital workers in the Texas Medical Center. Accepted for poster presentation at the annual conference for The Obesity Society, Atlanta, November 2013.

20. Skala K*, **Sharma SV**, Evans AE, Chuang RJ, Hedberg AH, Dave J. Poster presentation: "Ethnic differences in the home food environment and parental food practices among families of low-income Hispanic and African American preschoolers." Annual meeting, International Society of Behavior, Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA). Austin, TX, May 2012.

21. Sweitzer S, **Sharma SV,** Loufman L, McAllaster M, & Briley M. Poster presentation: "Parents are not Serving Recommended Amounts of Fruits and Dairy at Breakfast to Preschoolers." Annual meeting, International Society of Behavior, Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA). Austin, TX, May 2012.

22. Springer A, Kohl HW, **Sharma SV,** Hoelscher DM, Skala K, Gay J, & Martin R. Poster presentation: "The association between sports participation and dietary behaviors among Texas 4th grade children." Annual meeting, International Society of Behavior, Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA). Austin, TX, May 2012.

23. **Sharma SV**, Hedberg AM, Chuang RJ, Lewis T, & Skala K. Poster presentation: "Feasibility and Acceptability of a Gardening-Based Nutrition Education Program in Preschoolers for Low-Income, Minority Populations." Annual meeting, International Society of Behavior, Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA), Austin, TX, May 2012.

24. **Sharma SV,** Smith C, Hoelscher DM, Chen N, Beasley N, & Abernathy P. Poster presentation: "Reproducibility of NutriGram: a new instrument to measure nutrition knowledge and lifestyle behaviors of elementary school children." Annual meeting, International Society of Behavior, Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA), Austin, TX, May 2012.

25. Byrd-Williams C, **Sharma SV**, Evans AE, Chuang RJ, Hedberg AM. Poster presentation: Differences in obesity-related behaviors & the home environment in African American & Hispanic preschoolers in Texas Head Start Centers. Annual Meeting, The Obesity Society, Orlando, FL, October 2011.

26. Chuang RJ*, **Sharma SV**. Poster presentation: "Parental practice of behaviors and television viewing and active play among preschoolers in low-income families." Annual meeting, International Society of Behavior, Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA), Minneapolis, MN, 2010.

27. **Sharma SV**, Hedberg AM. Poster Presentation: "Dietary behaviors and obesity prevalence among preschool-age children from low-income minority populations." Annual meeting, American Dietetic Association, Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo in Denver, CO, October 2009.

28. Hochberg-Garrett H, Hoelscher DM, **Sharma SV**. Poster presentation: "The Skip To Breakfast project: development, implementation, and evaluation of an intervention to increase healthful breakfast consumption among fifth grade students and their families." Annual meeting, American Dietetic Association, Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo in Denver, CO, October 2009.

29. **Sharma SV,** Kelder SH, Hedberg AM. Poster presentation: "Components of an obesity prevention program for preschool-age children from low-income families: The Coordinated Approach to Child Health in Underserved Populations (CATCH UP) program." Annual meeting, International Society of Behavior, Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA), June 2009.

30. **Sharma SV**, Hedberg AM, Lewis T. Poster presentation: "A qualitative evaluation of dietary and physical activity habits of preschool-age children from minority, low-income families: Results of focus groups with parents of children enrolled in Head Start." Annual meeting, International Society of Behavior, Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA), June 2009.

31. **Sharma SV**, Garza J, Hoelscher DM, Kelder SH, Murray N. Poster presentation: "The relationship between junk food consumption and sedentary behavior among 3rd and 4th grade children in Texas." Annual NAASO meeting, San Diego, CA, October 2008.

32. **Sharma SV**, Hoelscher DM, Kelder SH, Diamond P, Day RS, Hergenroeder A. Poster presentation: "A path analysis to identify the psychosocial factors influencing calcium intake and bone health in adolescent girls." Annual American Public Health Association (APHA) meeting, October 2008.

33. **Sharma SV**, Hoelscher DM, Kelder SH, Diamond P. Poster presentation: "Psychosocial and environmental predictors of calcium intake, physical activity and bone health in adolescent girls." The International Society of Behavior, Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA) annual meeting, Oslo, Norway, June 2007.

34. **Sharma SV**, Bush J, Lorino A. Poster presentation: "Dietary factors and their risk factors for CVD in an urban university marching band." The American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), Denver, CO, May 2006.

35. Bush J, **Sharma SV**, Lorino A. Poster presentation: "Characteristics, correlates and perceptions of cardiovascular health in an urban university marching band." The American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), Denver, CO, 2006.

36. **Sharma SV**, Hoelscher DM, Kelder SH, Diamond P. Poster presentation: "Psychosocial and environmental predictors of calcium intake, physical activity and bone health in adolescent girls." The American Public Health Association (APHA) conference, Philadelphia, December 2005.

37. **Sharma SV**, Hoelscher DM, Kelder SH, Diamond P. Poster presentation: "Psychosocial and environmental predictors of calcium intake, physical activity and bone health in adolescent girls." The University of Texas, Houston, Research Day 2005.

38. **Sharma SV**., S.R Day, A Gernand. Poster presentation: "Knowledge does not predict fruit and vegetable intake among Hispanic Adults – Que Sabrosa Vida." The University of Texas 2003 Research Day, November 2003.

39. Riley.N. Bilodeau M., **Gaitonde S.**§ Poster presentation: "Contribution of peripheral mechanism to fatigue following a stroke." The Neurological Rehabilitation conference, Toronto, Canada, 1999.

40. **Gaitonde S§,** Bilodeau M. Poster presentation: "Changes in neuromuscular fatigue mechanisms with aging." The Society for Neuroscience conference, Miami, FL, 1999.

41. Williams D., **Gaitonde S§,** Bilodeau M. Poster presentation: "Neuromuscular fatigue characteristics of elbow flexor muscles of dominant and non-dominant arms in healthy humans." The Society for Neuroscience Conference, 1999.

42. Bilodeau M., **Gaitonde S.§,** Riley N. Poster presentation: "The relationship between EMG power spectrum statistics and the rate of rise in force during electrical stimulation of the elbow flexor muscles." International Society for Electromyography and Kinesiology (ISEK) Conference, Montreal, Canada,1998.

*indicates student presentations
§Please note that the maiden name was Shreela Gaitonde.

Journal Editorial Board:

2021 – 2024	**Associate Editor**, Frontiers in nutrition
February 2018-2019	**Associate Editor**, BMC Public health (5 year impact factor: 2.814)
March 2012-May 2018	Five-year term, **Editorial board member**, Journal of Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Guest Editor:

2015	Journal of Applied Research in Children, Issue "Nutrition and Food Insecurity"

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES AND ACTIVITIES

Committee service at UTSPH:

2023-2024	Faculty Chair, past
2022 – 2023	Faculty Chair elect
2022- present	Member, Faculty Council
2022- present	Member, University Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure Committee
2022- present	Member, Pediatric Population Health collaborative (in partnership with McGovern Medical School)
2018 – present	Faculty Coordinator, Certificate program in Culinary Nutrition
2017 – 2021	Member, School-wide Grievance Committee
2016 – 2021	Member, Academic Council
2016 – 2021	Chair, Epidemiology Curriculum Committee

2015 – 2019	Founding Faculty coordinator, Nutrition and Public Health concentration
2016 – 2021	Chair, School-wide Course Review Committee
2015 – 2020	Executive Committee member, Nourish Program
2010 – 2016	Member, Epidemiology Scholarship Committee
2007–2020	Advisory Board Member, UTSPH Dietetic Internship Program
2007–2016	Member, Epidemiology Curriculum Committee, UTSPH
2012–2013	Member, PhD Epidemiology Preliminary Examination Committee, UTSPH
2011–2012	Founding Chair, PhD Epidemiology Preliminary Examination Committee, UTSPH
2008	Member, Search committee for tenure-track Assistant Professor of Health Promotion/Behavioral Sciences and Dietetic Internship Program Director, UTSPH
2007–2010	Member, Advisory Board, Community Engagement Module, Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences, UTSPH
2008–2010	Member, Epidemiology Admissions Committee, UTSPH
2009–2010	Member, Epidemiology Website Development Committee, UTSPH

GRANT REVIEWER (PAST 5 YEARS)

2025	PCORI
2024	**Ad hoc reviewer on study section**, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, Feb 2024, July 2024
2023	**Ad hoc reviewer on study section**, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, Feb 2023, October 2023
2022	**Ad hoc reviewer on study section**, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, July 2022, October 2022
2022	**Member**, Special Emphasis Panel, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, April 5, 2022
2022	**Ad hoc Member**, F18 Fellowships: Epidemiology and Population Sciences, National Institutes of Health, March 24-25, 2022
2021	**Ad hoc Member**, National Institutes of Health, Community Influences on Health Behavior
2020	**Ad hoc Member**, National Institutes of Health, Community Influences on Health Behavior
2020	**Ad hoc Member**, National Institutes of Health, Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health Review Panel.
2019	**Reviewer**, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Healthy Eating Research
2018	**Ad hoc Member**, Special Emphasis Panel, National Institutes of Health, CTSA Collaborative Innovation Award (U01) Review Panel ZTR1 CI-4 (01)

CONFERENCE SERVICE:

2023- 2024	**Member**, **2024** International Society of Behavior, Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA) Annual Conference Executive Planning Committee
2019-2020	**Topic chair,** Diet, Nutrition & Eating Disorders, Society for Behavioral Medicine, Annual conference

Abstract reviewer:

2017	Society for Behavioral Medicine, Annual conference
2011–present	Annual Conference for the International Society of Behavior, Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA)
2017-present	American Public Health Association

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Fall 2018-present	**PH 2612 Epidemiology I (3 credit hours)**

Primary Instructor (100%)
Department of Epidemiology, Human Genetics and Environmental Sciences,
The University of Texas, School of Public Health

Fall 2007–2017 **PH 2610 Fundamentals of Epidemiology (3 credit hours, 55-70 students/semester)**
Primary Instructor (100% time)
Department of Epidemiology, Human Genetics and Environmental Sciences,
The University of Texas, School of Public Health

Spring 2007 – 2020 **PH 2998, Dietetic Internship Supervised Practice (1 credit hour, 12-15 students/semester)**
Primary Instructor (100% time),
Dietetic Internship program,
The University of Texas School of Public Health

Spring 2014-2016 **PH 2712 Experimental Methods in Epidemiology (4 credit hours)**
Co-Primary Instructor (50% time) along with Dr. Linda Piller (50% time)
Division of Epidemiology, Human Genetics and Environmental Sciences,
The University of Texas, School of Public Health

Spring 2013 **PH 2998 Epidemiology Seminar** (1 credit hour, 9 students)
Co-instructor with Dr. Anna Wilkinson (50%)
Division of Epidemiology, Human Genetics and Environmental Sciences,
The University of Texas, School of Public Health

Spring 2005–2006 **Measurement Techniques in Health and Human Performance (3 credit hours)**
Primary Instructor
Department of Health and Human Performance,
The University of Houston, Houston TX

Spring 2004–2006 **Introduction to Nutrition (3 credit hours)**
Primary Instructor
Department of Health and Human Performance,
The University of Houston, Houston TX

Spring 2004–2006 **Sports Nutrition (3 credit hours)**
Primary Instructor
Department of Health and Human Performance,
The University of Houston, Houston TX

Fall 2003–2006 **Medical Nutrition Therapy, Cardiovascular (3 credit hours)**
Primary Instructor
Department of Health and Human Performance,
The University of Houston, Houston TX

Fall 2003–2006 **Community Nutrition (3 credit hours)**
Primary Instructor
Department of Health and Human Performance,
The University of Houston, Houston TX

STUDENT ADVISING

Dietetic Internship program	Role

Role: Assistant Director, UTHealth School of Public Health, Dietetic Internship program, 2007-2020	Mentoring and supervising of up to 12 dietetic interns per year to meet their internship requirements of 1200 hours of supervised practice over two years.

Doctoral Students	**Dissertation Topic**	**Role**	**Year of Graduation**
1. Mary Sailors, PhD	Genetic variability and the hypothalamic control of energy balance	Dissertation committee Member	2009
2. Allison Ottenbacher, PhD	Physical activity among breast and prostate cancer survivors: Barriers, facilitators and maintenance following the Fresh Start trial.	Dissertation committee Member	2010
3. Ru-Jye Chuang, DrPH Candidate	Impact of a preschool-based program on physical activity among children enrolled in Head Start	Dissertation Supervisor	2014
4. Leticia Gatus, PhD candidate	Parental and environmental influences on Hispanic children's nutrition and physical activity	Dissertation Supervisor	2015
5. Mudita Upadhyaya, DrPH candidate	Worksite intervention to prevent obesity among hospital employees.	Dissertation Supervisor	2016
6. Allison Winters	Parental influences on dietary intake and weight status of children ages 2 to 12 through household rules and mealtime practices	Dissertation Committee member	2016
7. Michelle Hashemi	Association among food store selection, socio-demographic characteristics, food served in the home, and child diet and weight status in low-income ethnically diverse families in Texas	Dissertation Committee member	2016
8. Blanche Cramer-Greene	Parent behavioral and psychosocial risk and protective factors associated with child obesity in private school students in India.	Dissertation Committee member	2016
9. Leticia Gatus	Parental and environmental influences on Hispanic Children's nutrition and physical activity.	Dissertation Committee member	2016
10. Jemima John, PhD student	Evaluating Physical activity behaviors and association with BMI, weight status and related psychosocial factors among hospital workers: a cross-sectional study.	Academic Advisor Dissertation supervisor	2017
11. Thanh Hoang	Maternal genetic variants of digestive diseases and neural tube defects	Dissertation committee member	2018
12. Xiaotao Zhang	Malnutrition in older cancer patients	Dissertation committee member	2018
13. Christina Thi	Nutritional quality of foods at a client-choice food pantry in Dallas, Texas: Trends in selection and inventory, operations-related determinants and client perspectives.	Dissertation committee member	2019
14. Margaret Raber	Observed cooking behaviors of families with and without childhood cancer survivors and the	Dissertation supervisor	2019

	development of a healthy cooking assessment tool.		
15. Wafa Duhaim	Health-related quality of life, physical activity and perceived parental self-efficacy among low-income mothers in the first year postpartum	Dissertation Supervisor	Spring2020
16. Tasnuva Rashid	Role of disinfectants in the eradication and propagation of Clostridium difficile	Academic Advisor, Dissertation Committee member	Spring 2019
17. Sayali Tungare	Opioid and antibiotic prescribing in the US academic dental setting	Academic Advisor	Spring 2022
18. Dania Mofleh	In process	Academic Advisor and Dissertation supervisor	In process
19. Maha Almohamad	In process	Academic Advisor and Dissertation supervisor	Fall 2024
20. Mackenzie Senn	In process	Academic Advisor and Dissertation committee member	In process
21. Ryan Ramphul	Using Spatial Methods to understand food insecurity and SNAP under-participation in Texas	Dissertation Committee Member	Summer 2020
22. Anshu Khanna		Academic Advisor	Student on LOA
23. John Wesley McWhorter	Development of a culinary nutrition-based training for registered dietitian nutritionists and a clinic-based nutrition intervention to improve health outcomes among low-income minority patients.	Dissertation Supervisor	Summer 2020
24. Christine Carstens	Food safety behaviors and microbial contamination of domestic kitchens among families with children.	Dissertation Committee member	Spring 2022
25. Katherine Hearne	Investigating fruit and vegetable variety in a national food co-op: A Brighter Bites evaluation.	Dissertation supervisor	Summer 2022
26. Brittni Naylor	Influences on child fruit and vegetable intake in low-income minority populations: The role of parent fruit and vegetable intake, home nutrition environment, fruit and vegetable shopping behavior, and SNAP participation	Dissertation Supervisor	Spring 2021
27. Jennifer Aiyer	In Process	Academic Advisor and Dissertation Supervisor	Spring 2025
28. Bipin Singh	In Process	Academic Advisor	In process
29. Manali Desai	In process	Academic Advisor	In process
30. Dayoung Jung	The Effect of Vitamin D Insufficiency at the Time of Diagnosis on Mantle Cell Lymphoma Survival	Academic Advisor and Dissertation supervisor	Summer 2022
31. Lokesh Shahani	Predictors of length of stay and suicide risk in geriatric patient population	Dissertation Committee member	Summer 2022

32. Fangyu Li	The Effects of Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Inflammatory Bowel Diseases, Colorectal Tumor Microbiota	Academic advisor and dissertation supervisor	Spring 2023
33. Mallika Mathur	In progress	Academic advisor and Dissertation supervisor	Spring 2024
34. Deepali Ernest	In progress	Academic advisor	Summer 2025
35. Aisha Khan	In progress	Academic advisor and Dissertation supervisor	Spring 2025
36. David Kronenberger	In progress	Academic advisor	In progress
37. Matt Tang	In progress	Academic advisor and dissertation committee member	In progress
38. Lorena Macias Navarro	In progress	Dissertation supervisor	
40. Nadia Siddiqui	In progress	Dissertation supervisor	
41. Tuate White	In progress	Dissertation supervisor	

MPH/MS Students	**Thesis Topic**	**Role**	**Graduation**
1. Carla Mercado, MS	Fruit and vegetable dietary patterns and weight loss in Mexican American women	Thesis committee member	2008
2. Debra Canter, MS	Metabolic syndrome and cardiovascular mortality among participants of the hypertension detection and follow up program	Thesis committee Member	2010
3. Heather Atteberry, MPH	The Coordinated Approach to Child Health in Underserved Populations (CATCH UP) curriculum: A quantitative evaluation of an innovative preschool obesity prevention program	Thesis committee Member	2009
4. Ayesha Chawdhary, MPH	Delays in diagnosis and referral of hematologic malignancies	Thesis committee Member	2009
5. Tamara Lewis, MPH, RD	Determining the feasibility and acceptability of a garden based nutrition curriculum for preschoolers	Thesis Supervisor	2009
6. Margaret Murray, MPH, RD	Validity and reliability of using MVP4 Function Walk4Life digital pedometers to assess physical activity among preschool children.	Thesis Supervisor	2009
7. Bhavana Konda, MD, MPH	Hypogonadism in male cancer patients: a cross-sectional study	Academic Advisor and Thesis Supervisor	2010
8. Kathleen Brewer, MPH, RD	Relationship between parental feeding practices and weight status in a lower socioeconomic preschool population	Academic Advisor and Thesis Supervisor	2010
9. Abrar Qureshi, MPH	Capstone Course	Academic Advisor	2011
10. Riddhi Shukla, MPH	Vitamin A supplementation in very low birth weight infants	Academic Advisor and Thesis Supervisor	2012
11. Jessica Kirk, MPH, RD	The impact of a cooking and gardening summer camp experience on fruit and	Thesis Supervisor	2012

	vegetable consumption of elementary school-age children		
12. Ashutosh Lodhi, MD, MPH	Capstone Course	Academic Advisor	2012
13. Vidyadhar Sripatnana, MD, MPH	Capstone course	Academic Advisor	2012
14. Vinu Jyothi	Baseline evaluation of environmental physical activity and nutrition support of Texas Medical Center hospital worksites	Thesis supervisor	2012
15. Aditya Sanzgiri, MBBS, MPH	Capstone course	Academic Advisor	2012
16. Alicia Rodriguez Farhat, MPH	Long term impact of a weight management program on obese children.	Academic Advisor and Thesis supervisor	2013
17. Priyankana Mishra, MPH	Capstone course	Academic Advisor	2013
18. Akira Look, MPH	Capstone course	Academic Advisor	2013
19. Karla Cantu, MPH	Capstone course	Academic Advisor	2013
20. Emily Laberge, MPH	Impact and significance of a multidisciplinary approach to type 2 diabetes in a primary care setting	Academic Advisor and Thesis Supervisor	2014
21. Katherine Albus, MPH	Process evaluation of Ace for Health pilot study	Thesis supervisor	2014
22. Margaret Raber, MPH	A conceptual framework for cooking in chronic disease	Thesis supervisor	2014
23. Pratik Manandar, MPH	Investigating workplace intervention and change in metabolic equivalence of task using multilevel data.	Thesis committee member	2015
24. Lani Alcazar, MPH	Barriers and facilitators for implementation of early care education-based nutrition and physical activity programs among children ages 0 to 5 years	Academic Advisor and Thesis supervisor	2015
25. Ana Monterrey, MD, MPH	Quality of Life outcomes in children participating in the weight management program from the Texas Childhood Obesity Research Demonstration project (TX CORD study).	Thesis Supervisor	2016
26. Camille Range, MPH	Comparison of Hispanic mothers and their early adolescent daughters' eating patterns	Thesis committee Member	2016
27. Johannah Frelier	Parent psychosocial outcomes from a fruit and vegetable co-op for low-income families	Academic advisor and Thesis Supervisor	2017
28. Jennifer Aiyer	A "Food Prescription" Pilot Program: Prescribing Healthy Food to Address Food Insecurity	Academic Advisor And Thesis Supervisor	2018
29. Katie Newsome	Breastfeeding and obesity: A systematic mapping review of reviews.	Thesis Supervisor	2017
30. Sania Durrani	Effect of breastfeeding education on breastfeeding intention, duration and	Academic Advisor and Thesis Supervisor	2017

	knowledge among low-come African American mothers.		
31. Arun Choudhary	Association between Intimate Partner Violence and Undernutrition among Married Nepalese Women of Reproductive Age	Academic Advisor and Thesis Supervisor	2017
32. Colton McMath	Implementation constructs associated with parent engagement for the Brighter Bites program.	Thesis Supervisor	2017
33. Ashwini Joshi	Capstone course	Academic Advisor	2018
34. Fatima Sherrif	A meta-analysis of hypertension and risk of birth defects	Academic Advisor and Thesis Committee Member	2018
35. Anila Verghese	Nutrition interventions that have impacted diet quality of SNAP participants.	Thesis Supervisor	2018
36. Aksha Memon	The role of online social networking on deliberate self-harm and suicidality in adolescents: A systematized review of the literature	Academic advisor and Thesis Supervisor	2018
37. Joanna Grace Manzano	Effect of Diabetes Treatment on Breast Cancer Outcomes – A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis	Academic Advisor and Thesis Supervisor	2018
38. Sarah Crulcich	The Impact of food insecurity on food shopping behavior and behavior of 2018 Brighter Bites families at baseline	Thesis Supervisor	2019
39. David Kronenberger	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Summer 2020
40. Andrea Aldross	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2020
41. Sachien Sharma	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Summer 2020
42. Mattalin Vojacek	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2021
43. Sieda Omar	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2021
44. Anaya Rodriguez, Laura Patricia	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2022
45. Bascom, Jacqueline	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2022
46. Collins-Jones, Teresa L	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2022
47. Fonsecaescobar, Nicolas	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2022
48. Jalali, Sid Poorya	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2022
49. Jones, Jasmine Nicole	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2022
50. Koelpin, Erika	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2024
51. Kwake, Christopher	Dropped	Academic Advisor	
52. Moreno, Victoria De Jesus	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2024
53. Nguyen, Shannon	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2024

54. Oskouipour, Parysa	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2024
55. Rozman De Moraes, Aline	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2024
56. Patel, Samir J	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2024
57. Salinsky, Danielle Leigh	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2024
58. Stanek, Jordyn Alexa	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2024
59. Teran, Merari	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2024
60. Yaqub, Sayma	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2024
61. Marcos Ramirez	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2024
62.Justin Gregg	Transferred to HPBS	Academic Advisor	
63. Fathimath Shamna	Capstone	Academic Advisor	Spring 2025
64. Laura Mihova	ILE	Academic Advisor	Spring 2023
65. Jennifer Torres	ILE	Academic Advisor	Spring 2023
66. Lauren Roper	ILE	Academic Advisor	Spring 2023
67. Samantha Bovino	ILE	Academic advisor	Spring 2023
68. Sarah Hermann	ILE	Academic Advisor	Spring 2023
69. Rajvi Patel	In Process	Academic Advisor	

Post-doctoral research fellows:

2024 – present	Kiana Bess
2024 – present	Mallika Mathur
2020 – 2023	Allison Marshall, DrPH
2020 - 2022	Jemima John, PhD
2014 – 2016	Ru-Jye Chuang, DrPH
2015 - 2017	Mudita Upadhyaya, DrPH

Junior faculty mentoring at UTHealth (2023-2024):

Formal mentorship

1. Jemima John, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Human Genetics, Environmental Sciences *(Primary Mentor)*
2. Ryan Ramphul, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Human Genetics, Environmental Sciences *(Primary Mentor)*
3. Marcia Otto, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Human Genetics, Environmental Sciences *(Primary Mentor)*
4. Irene Tami-Maury, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Human Genetics, Environmental Sciences *(Member of Mentoring Committee)*
5. Ru-Jye Chuang, DrPH, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences *(Primary Mentor)*
6. Andrea Ramirez Varela, Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology *(Mentoring Committee)*

7. Heather Essigmann, Assistant Professor, Non-tenure track instruction *(Mentoring Committee)*
8. Tim Walker, UTSPH, Assistant Professor, Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences*(Mentoring Committee)*
9. Serwaa Omowale, UTSPH, Assistant Professor, MPACH
10. Ashley Shaw, UTSPH, Assistant Professor, HPBS

Informal mentorship (2024-2025):

1. Brett Perkison, MD, MPH, Associate Professor, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
2. Prajakta Yeragi, Assistant Professor, McGovern Medical School Department of Pediatrics
3. Vinay Prabhu, Assistant Professor, McGovern Medical School Department of Pediatrics
4. Emily Lemon, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences
5. Anna Gitter, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
6. Jayna Dave, Associate Professor, Children's Nutrition Research Center, Baylor College of Medicine
7. Elizabeth Onugha, Assistant Professor, Baylor College of Medicine
8. Allison Marshall, Assistant Professor, George Washington University
9. Chelsea Liu, Assistant Professor, Epidemiology, UTSPH

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE:

National and International:

2022 – present	**Member,** American Heart Association Healthcare X Food Initiative Research Planning Group
2023 – present	**Chair**, American Heart Association, Healthcare X Food Initiative Field Based Infrastructure Taskforce
2024- present	Member, American Heart Association, Nutrition Committee
2018	**Member**, American Public Health Association, Food and Nutrition Section planning committee
2018	**Steering Committee Member**, Executive Innovation Lab in Diabetes and Pre-Diabetes, The DiaTribe Foundation
2015 – present	**Board member and co-founder**, Brighter Bites non-profit organization
2011–2012	**Member,** 2012 ISBNPA Annual Conference Planning Committee
2013–present	**Member**, Early Childhood Working Group, Healthy Eating Research, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
2016	**Grant reviewer**, RWJF Systems for Action: Systems and Services Research for a Culture of Health

State and Local:

2023 - present	**Chair**, Food Affinity Group, Texas Consortium on Non-Medical Drivers of Health
2019-present	**Founding Co-lead**, Health Equity Collective
2019-present	**Board member**, University of Houston Friends of Women and Gender studies program
2017	Established the **Shreela & Vibhu Sharma Endowed Fund** for Excellence in Community Nutrition, Health & Wellness at UTHealth School of Public Health. The endowment in perpetuity provides annual fellowships to doctoral students at UTHealth School of Public Health.
2016	Established the **Philip R. Nader Endowed Fund** for Early Childhood Obesity Prevention at UTHealth School of Public Health.
2016	Established the Roberta Anding **Nutrition Education Endowment** at UTHealth School of Public Health
2016 – 2018	**Co-chair**, Food insecurity workgroup, Clinton Health Matters Initiative-Houston, Clinton Foundation
2011–2016	**Member**, Mayor of Houston's Go Healthy Houston Task Force
2013–2016	**Member**, Joint Health Services Advisory Committee, Neighborhood Centers Inc. Head Start, Houston, TX
2013–2016	**Member**, Health Services Advisory Committee, Gulf Coast Community Services Association Head Start, Houston, TX
2015 – 2017	**Board Member**, Gateway to Care non-profit organization
2013–2017	**Advisory board member**, Houston Technology Center, Life Sciences Acceleration Committee
2008–2015	**Executive Board member**, Pratham NGO, Houston chapter

MEMBERSHIPS

2001 – present Member, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
2006 – present Member, American Public Health Association
2014 – present Member, International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA)
2020 – present Member, American Heart Association