

CURRICULUM VITAE

SERWAA S. OMOWALE, PhD, LMSW, MPH

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
School of Public Health
1200 Pressler Street
Houston, TX 77030
Serwaa.S.Omowale@uth.tmc.edu

EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work Pittsburgh, PA	PhD	2021
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University of Pittsburgh, School of Public Health Pittsburgh, PA Concentration: Behavioral and Community Health Sciences	MPH	2021
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University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work Pittsburgh, PA Concentration: Direct Practice	MSW	2008
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University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work Pittsburgh, PA Graduate Certificate in Gerontology		2008
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Georgia State University, College of Arts and Sciences Atlanta, GA Major: African American Studies	BA	2005
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Georgia State University Atlanta, GA Nkonsonkonson Summer Study Abroad, Accra, Ghana		2004
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OTHER TRAINING

LEAD Global Training Program Fellow (T37MD014218: MPis: Cavazos-Rehg, Ssewamala) Washington University in St. Louis Funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Training Sites: Uganda and South Africa		2024
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Health Disparities Research Institute Scholar Funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities		2023
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Postdoctoral Fellow (T32HD098057, PI: Kuppermann) Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences California Preterm Birth Initiative University of California, San Francisco		2021-2023
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, Tenure Track

2023-Present

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Department of Management, Policy & Community Health
Center for Health Equity Faculty

Adjunct Professor, College of Social Work

2021-2023

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

PROFESSIONAL LICENSE

Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW)

2011-Present

Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners

FUNDING and FELLOWSHIPS

Loan Repayment Program (LRP) Renewal

2025-2027

NIH/National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities
Total: \$99,253.04

Loan Repayment Program (LRP)

2023-2025

NIH/National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities
Total: \$100,000

University of California, San Francisco

2022

Department of Family and Community Medicine
Research Funding
Total: \$2,000

University of California, San Francisco

2021-2023

California Preterm Birth Initiative
Research Funding
Total: \$25,000

NIH, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

2019-2021

Diversity Supplement, R01 HL135218-03S1
Total: \$83,808

University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work

2021

Dissertation Funding
Total: \$500

University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work/Department of Psychiatry

2020-2021

Center for Interventions to Enhance Community Health Fellow
Total: \$1,500

University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work

2019

Joseph and Helen Eaton Award Research Funding
Total: \$600

National Council for Black Studies Keto Student Leadership Development and Mentoring Program Fellow Total: \$1,000	2018-2020
University of Michigan, School of Social Work Graduate Mentoring Workshop on African American Research Total: \$1,000	2018
University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work John A. Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education Fellow Total: \$3,168	2007-2008
Georgia State University, Department of African American Studies Ye Ye Graduate School Scholarship Total: \$1,000	2006

GRANTS & CONTRACTS

Funded

Project Title: *An Analysis of Factors Driving Teenage Pregnancy in Rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa*

Funder: UTHHealth Houston Global Health Initiatives

Role: PI, 0% Effort (2025-2026)

Amount: \$5,500 (originally funded \$12,000, reduced due to cost containment)

Completed Projects

Project Title: In-depth Analysis of Factors that Drive Teenage Pregnancy and the Intergenerational Cycle of Teenage Motherhood in South Africa

Funder: UN Population Fund

PI: Zamasomi Prudence Busisi Luvuno, PhD, University of Kwazulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa

Role: Co-Investigator, 0% Effort (2024)

HONORS AND AWARDS

LEAD Global Training Program Fellow Washington University in St. Louis Leadership Award	2024
Bay Area Association of Black Social Workers President's Award	2024
Georgia State University, Department of African American Studies Distinguished Alumni Award	2017
Georgia State University, Department of African American Studies John Henrik Clarke Award for Outstanding Service	2005

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My interest in women's health is focused on exploring the impact of poor cardiovascular health during pregnancy on maternal morbidity and its long-term consequences, including the heightened risk for cardiovascular disease and dementia across a woman's lifespan.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Principal Investigator 2019-2021
University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work
Project: Black Women's Work and Maternal Health Research Study
Faculty Advisor: Dr. John M. Wallace, Jr.

Graduate Student Researcher 2019-2021
University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health
Postpartum Mothers Mobile Study (PMOMS)
NIH, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
R01 HL135218-01
PI and Research Advisor: Dr. Dara D. Mendez

Graduate Research Assistant 2017-2019
University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work
Faculty Advisor: Dr. John M. Wallace, Jr.

Research Assistant 2012-2013
Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Medical Center/Baylor College of Medicine
Calmer Life Study
PI: Dr. Melinda Stanley

PUBLICATIONS

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Omowale, S. S., Cottrell-Daniels, C., Miller, K.*, Jones, L., Jones, T., Chand, M., ... & Kuppermann, M. (2025). Community-Based Approaches to Developing a Community-Level Intervention to Improve Black Maternal and Infant Health. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, 1-7.

Sanders, S. A., **Omowale, S.**, Casas, A., Kiyanda, A., Kosbie, A. S., Lai, Y. H., ... & Méndez, D. (2025). Completion Rates for Ecological Momentary Assessments of Food Intake During Pregnancy and Post Partum: Descriptive Study. *JMIR Human Factors*, 12(1), e67081.

Luvuno, Z., Chiya, W. H., Ngcobo, S. J., Naidoo, D., **Omowale, S.**, Zhandire, T., Joseph-Shehu, E. M., Ncama, B. P., & Duma, S. E. (2025). Risk and protective factors associated with teenage pregnancy and intergenerational interventions: a scoping review protocol. *BMJ open*, 15(6), e094710. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2024-094710>

Slatton, B. C., Cambrice, F. G., & **Omowale, S. S.** (2025). COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Among Black Women in the US. *JAMA Network Open*, 8(1), e2453511-e2453511
Research Highlight: The University of Texas at Austin Population Research Center Research Brief. [What drives COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy among Black women in the United States?](#)

Omowale, S. S., Mangum, L. C., Joseph-McCatty, A., Cottrell-Daniels, C., Farris*, K. A., King, R., & Slatton, B. C. (2024). Work as a social determinant of maternal health: A qualitative exploration of college-educated Black women's experiences at work during pregnancy and postpartum. *Women's Health*, 20, 17455057241304842

Mendez, D. D., Tapia, A., Manda, Sanders, S. A., Casas, A., Small, M., Davis, E., Rathbun, S. L., Gary-Webb, T. L., Burke, L. E., **Omowale, S. S.**, Wallace, Adodoadji, L., M. L., Gianakas, J., Feghali, M. (2024). Real-time experiences of racism and stress in association with postpartum weight retention: A longitudinal ecological momentary assessment study. *American Journal of Epidemiology*, kwae424.

Ashcraft, L. E., Hamm, M. E., **Omowale, S. S.**, Hruschak, V., Miller, E., Eack, S. M., & Merlin, J. S. (2024) The perpetual evidence-practice gap: addressing ongoing barriers to chronic pain management in primary care in three steps. *Frontiers in Pain Research*, 5, 1376462.

Omowale, S. S., Gary-Webb, T. L., Wallace, M. L., Wallace, J. M., Rauktis, M. E., Eack, S. M., & Mendez, D. D. (2022). Stress during pregnancy: An ecological momentary assessment of stressors among Black and White women with implications for maternal health. *Women's health (London, England)*, 18, 17455057221126808. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17455057221126808>

Fussell-Ware, D. J., Ballentine, K., Flores, A., Mangum, L. C., **Omowale, S. S.**, MacKenzie, K., ... & Ashcraft, L. E. (2022). Using the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research to Promote Anti-Racism in Social Work Higher Education. *Advances in Social Work*, 22(2), 680-702.

Felder, J. N., Afulani, P. A., Coleman-Phox, K., **Omowale, S. S.**, McCulloch, C. E., Lessard, L., & Kuppermann, M. (2022). Pregnancy-related COVID worry, depressive symptom severity, and mediation through sleep disturbance in a low-income, primarily Latinx population in California's Central valley. *Journal of Psychiatric Research*.

Omowale, S. S., Casas, A., Lai, Y., Sanders, S. A., Hill, A. V., Wallace, M. L., Rathbun, S. L., Gary-Webb, T. L., Burke, L. E., Davis, E. M., Mendez, D. D. (2021). Trends in Stress Throughout Pregnancy and Postpartum Period During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Longitudinal Study Using Ecological Momentary Assessment and Data From the Postpartum Mothers Mobile Study. *JMIR mental health*, 8(9), e30422. <https://doi.org/10.2196/30422>

- Media Highlight: [COVID-19 Restrictions Linked with Elevated Stress in New Moms and Moms-to-Be - UPMC & Pitt Health Sciences News Blog \(September 2021\)](#)

(*Indicates student authorship)

PRESENTATIONS (Peer-reviewed)

International

(Oral Presentations)

Omowale, S. S.; Farris, Kaiya*; Emeto, Chidera*; King, Rashon (2025). Advocating for Early Mental Health Engagement to Improve Black Mother's Perinatal Mental Health in the United States. Marcé of North America conference in Toronto, Canada, November 5th-8th, 2025. (Accepted)

Omowale, S. S. (2024) Using Implementation Science to Develop a Community-Based Perinatal Mental Health Intervention. International Marcé Society for Perinatal Mental Health conference in Barcelona, Spain held September 4th – 7th, 2024.

(*Indicates student authorship)

Domestic

(Oral Presentations)

Omowale, S. S.; Paker-Schauer, Michele; McClain-Henry, Sierra; Slatton, Brittany (2025). Building Community Collaboration to Develop a Population-Specific Intervention to Improve Black Maternal and Infant Health, Symposium: Postpartum Health Equity: Bridging Gaps in the Forth Trimester. Pittsburgh, PA

Omowale, S. S. (2023) Work as a social determinant of health: Centering the perspectives of black women during pregnancy and postpartum. Society for Social Work and Research Conference. Phoenix, AZ.

Omowale, S. S., Casas, A., Lai, Y., Sanders, S. A., Hill, A.V., Wallace, M. L., Rathbun, S. L., Gary-Webb, T. L., Burke, L. E., Davis, E. M., Mendez, D. D. (2021) A longitudinal analysis of stress during the covid-19 pandemic in a pregnant and postpartum population. American Public Health Association. Denver, CO. Presented Virtually.

Omowale, S. S. (2020) Workplace stress and discrimination: The experiences of black women at work during pregnancy and postpartum. American Public Health Association. Presented Virtually.

Omowale, S. S. (2019) Reconsidering risk: racial differences in maternal health and low birth weight among college-educated black and white women. Society for Social Work and Research. San Francisco, CA.

Omowale, S. S. (2019) Saving ourselves: Black maternal health in enslavement and freedom. National Council for Black Studies. New Orleans, LA.

Omowale, S. S. (2018). Maternal health and infant mortality among black women. National Council for Black Studies. Atlanta, GA.

(Panel Presentations)

Omowale, S. S., Fussell-Ware, D., Thyberg, C. (2021) Using the consolidated framework for implementation research to promote anti-racism in academia. Council on Social Work Education. Orlando, FL.

(Poster Presentations)

Lai, Y., **Omowale, S. S.**, Sanders, S. A., Casas, A. D., Wallace, M. L., Rathbun, S. L., Gary-Webb, T. L., Davis, E. M., Burke, L. E., Mendez, D. D. (2021) Added sugar intake as measured by ecological momentary assessment versus 24-hour dietary recall during pregnancy. Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiological Research. Presented Virtually.

Ashcraft, L. E., Hamm, M., **Omowale, S. S.**, Hruschak, V., Miller, E., Eack, S., Merlin, J. (2021) Perceptions of evidence-based chronic pain management of primary care providers. Society for Social Work and Research. Presented Virtually.

Omowale, S. S. (2020) Using geographic information systems technology in social work education. Council on Social Work Education. Presented Virtually.

Ashcraft, L. E., Hamm, M., **Omowale, S. S.**, Hruschak, V., Miller, E., Eack, S., Merlin, J. (2020) Dissemination and implementation of chronic pain evidence among primary care providers: A qualitative study. Academy Health 13th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health. Presented Virtually.

(Symposia)

Sampson, M., Boyd, R., Walton, Q., **Omowale, S. S.**, Parker, A. (2021). Towards a health equity narrative for black maternal health and well-being. Society for Social Work and Research. Presented Virtually.

Omowale, S. S. (2020) A black feminist approach to measuring maternal psychological distress. Society for Social Work and Research. Washington, D.C.

(Invited Presentation)

Special Sessions (Panelist and Session Organizer)

Omowale, S. S., Olaniyan, A., Mendez, D. D. (2021) Listen to Black voices: Black maternal and infant health equity. American Sociological Association. Presented Virtually.

WORKSHOPS

(Invited Workshops)

Mendez, D. D. & **Omowale, S. S.** (2018) Maternal mortality review: Lessons learned from Texas and insight for Pennsylvania. Healthy Start Cheryl Squire Flint Cultural Sensitivity Symposium: *This Woman's Work*. Pittsburgh, PA

Omowale, S. S. (2018). Centering black women's health. Healthy Start Cheryl Squire Flint Cultural Sensitivity Symposium: *This Woman's Work*. Pittsburgh, PA

ROUNDTABLE/PANEL

(Invited)

Empowering Maternity: Navigating Maternal Health, Raising Our Voices, and Improving Access in Unserved Communities (2024). Virtual panel hosted by PEP!IN..

(Invited)

Overcoming Barriers: Transforming Black Maternal Health Through Research (2024). Virtual panel hosted by Alliance of Community Health Plans.

(Invited)

Research in Our Community and the Impact on Black Maternal & Mental Health (2023) Black Maternal Mental Health Summit Hosted by Shades of Blue Project. Houston, TX.

(Invited)

The State of Black Maternal Mental Health Roundtable (2022) Black Maternal Mental Health Week Hosted by Shades of Blue Project. Houston, TX. Virtual Roundtable.

SPEAKER

(Invited)

Planning & Program Development (Master of Social Work Course). School of Social Work.
(2023) Boston University

(Invited)

Africana Studies: The Foundation to Culturally Responsive Black Maternal and Infant Health
Equity Work (2022). African American Studies, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

Achievement in Teaching Pedagogy Badge

2019

University of Pittsburgh
Center for Teaching and Learning

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Fall 2025

UTHealth Houston, Houston, Texas
School of Public Health
PHM3620 Principles and Practice of Public Health
MPH Level: 20 Students
Format: Asynchronous

Instructor

Fall 2025

UTHealth Houston, Houston, Texas
School of Public Health
PHD3620 Principles and Practice of Public Health
Doctoral Level: 6 Students
Format: Asynchronous

Instructor

Fall 2024

UTHealth Houston, Houston, Texas
School of Public Health
PHM3620 Principles and Practice of Public Health
MPH Level: 30 Students
Format: Asynchronous

Instructor

Fall 2024

UTHealth Houston, Houston, Texas
School of Public Health
PHD3620 Principles and Practice of Public Health
Doctoral Level: 8 Students
Format: Asynchronous

Instructor

Spring 2023

University of Tennessee, Knoxville
College of Social Work, Master of Social Work Online Program
SW 572: Evidence-based Policy and Practice with Older Adults

Instructor

Spring 2023

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

College of Social Work, Master of Social Work Online Program
SW 563: Systematic Planning and Evaluation for Interpersonal Practice

Instructor

Fall 2022

University of Tennessee, Knoxville
College of Social Work, Master of Social Work Online Program
SW 563: Systematic Planning and Evaluation for Interpersonal Practice

Instructor

Spring 2022

University of Tennessee, Knoxville
College of Social Work, Master of Social Work Online Program
SW 538: Social Justice and Anti-oppressive Practice

Instructor

Fall 2016

University of Houston
African American Studies Program
AAS: 4440 Model African Union Seminar
Undergraduate Course, Taught Hybrid

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Practicum Mentor: Rhanna Wilson (MPH student) 2025

Independent Study: Chidera Emeto (PhD student) 2025

Facilitator for University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Clinical
Experience Course Book Club Reading of Medical Apartheid for Medical
Students 2020

Facilitator for University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Clinical
Experience Women's Health Workshop for Medical Students 2020

Invited Guest Lecture, Topic: Aging Services 2014
Aging and Mental Health Psychology Course
University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX

Invited Guest Lecture, Topic: Aging Services 2013
Aging and Mental Health Psychology Course
University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Student Advisees (Current)

Kaiya Farris (PhD, Dissertation committee)
Adrick Harris (DrPH, Dissertation committee)
Chidera Emeto (PhD, Dissertation committee)
Dana Santana (CHP-DrPH program advisor)
Rhanna Wilson (CHP-MPH program advisor)
Ariel Amaya Quintanilla (CHP-MPH program advisor)
Dana Aborahma (CHP-MPH program advisor)

(Past)

Rakima Parson (PhD, Dissertation committee), Graduated Summer 2025

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston**Student Supervisees**

Kaiya Farris (Graduate Research Assistant), 2023-2025

Aysha Zahidie (Teaching Assistant), Fall 2024

Informal Mentoring (Current)

Kobi Miller (PhD, student, University of Maryland, Counseling Psychology)

Davonte Lyons (PhD candidate, Howard University, African Studies)

Traveon Rogers (PhD student, UC Berkeley, African American Studies)

Women/MCH Research Interest Mentoring Group

I formed a mentoring group Fall 2024 for students interested in women/maternal and child health research. This group meets once a month during the semester with UTHHealth Houston and external students, postdocs, and emerging public health and social work professionals.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**Program Manager**

2015-2017

University of Houston, Houston, TX
African American Studies Program

2013-2015

Social Worker II

Harris Health System, Houston, TX

Care Manager and Elder Care Counselor

2011-2013

Neighborhood Centers Inc., Houston, TX

Medical Social Worker

2010-2011

Amedisys Home Health, Atlanta, GA

Senior Service Coordinator

2010-2011

The Family Center of South DeKalb, LLC., Decatur, GA

Care Coordinator

2009-2010

Visiting Nurse Health System, Atlanta, GA

Care Manager

2008-2009

Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging, Bridgeport, CT

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Journal Reviewer: Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities

2025

Journal Reviewer: Maternal and Child Health Journal

2024

Journal Reviewer: Health Equity

2024

Journal Reviewer: BMJ Open

2023

Ad hoc Conference Abstract Reviewer

2022

American Public Health Association (APHA)		
Journal Reviewer		2022
Ethnicity and Disease		
Conference Volunteer		2018-2019
Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)		

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

UTHealth Houston, School of Public Health Community Health Practice	MPH/DrPH Admission Committee	2023-Present
University of California, San Francisco	First Generation Support Services Role: Mentor to first generation graduate student	2022-2023
University of California, San Francisco	Underrepresented Postdocs Realizing an Inclusive Scientific Environment (UPRISE), Leadership Team	2022-2023
University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health	Dean's Office Social Justice Action Committee, Leadership Team	2020-2021
University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work	Anti-Racist Committee, Founding Member	2020-2021
University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work	Doctoral Student Organization, Secretary	2018-2019
University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health	Center for Health Equity, Facilitator for Journal Club on Black Maternal Health	2019
University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work	International Studies Committee, Member	2017-2020
University of Houston, African American Studies Program	Model African Union Conference, Student Advisor	2016-2017
University of Houston, African American Studies Program	Ankh Maat WEDU Honor Society, Student Advisor	2016-2017

University of Houston, African American Studies Program	Faculty Travel Grants Committee, Member	2016-2017
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COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE, COMMITTEES

The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD	Educational Presentation Title: Perinatal Mental Health: Strategies for Mental Health Professionals	2025
March of Dimes-Houston	Collective Impact Economic Independence Workgroup	2024-Present
Bay Area Association of Black Social Workers	Leadership Role: Member at Large (2022-2024), Scholarship and Student Outreach Committee Chair	2022-Present
Alliance for Community Health Plans PCORI Funded Project: Establishing a Research Agenda to Reduce Toxic Stress and Increase Maternal Health Equity	Leadership Committee Member	2023
Association of Black Social Workers Houston, TX Presentation	Title: Black Maternal and Infant Health Equity: Implications for Social Work Education, Policy, and Practice	2022
Association of Black Social Workers Oakland, CA Black Maternal Health Week 2022 Presentation	Title: Black Maternal and Infant Health Equity: Implications for Social Work Education, Policy, and Practice	2022
CityMatCH Equity Institute for Birth Outcomes, Allegheny County	Project Mentor	2020-2021
Healthy Start Pittsburgh Healthy Babies Zone Initiative	Research Team	2019-2020
Allegheny County Infant Mortality Collaborative	Executive Member and Research Lead	2017-2020

Houston Work Group: Reducing Maternal Mortality	Research Team	2017
Doctors for Change, Houston, TX	Access to Care Committee Member	2014-2017
Association of Black Social Workers Houston, TX	Mentor to BSW and MSW Students, Sankofa Mentoring Program Mentee: Belinda Stubblefield (BSW)	2013-2017
Impacting Maternal and Prenatal Care Together Collaborative Houston, TX	Committee Member	2013-2015
Mental Health America Houston, TX	Committee Member	2014-2015

TRAININGS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Accepted to the 2025 UTHHealth Houston Institute for Implementation Science Workshop	2025
Digital Storytelling Online Certificate Program Story Center	2023
University of California, San Francisco Study Designs for Intervention Research in Real-World Settings course	2022
University of Michigan, School of Social Work Mixed Methods in Research Online Certificate Program	2022
University of California, San Francisco Center for AIDS Research Monthly Mentoring Workshops	2021-2023
University of California, San Francisco California Preterm Birth Initiative Collaboratory Series	2021-2023
Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research Early Career Reviewer Program Mentor: Jonathan B. Singer, PhD, LCSW	2021-2023
Intensive Longitudinal Methods Statistical Horizons	2020
Multilevel Models Course Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health 38 th Annual Graduate Summer Institute	2020

Maternal and Child Health Equity Scholars
University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health
Mentor: Dara D. Mendez, PhD, MPH

2018-2021

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS MEMBERSHIPS

Academy Health

American Public Health Association

American Heart Association

Society for Research in Child Development

Society for Social Work and Research

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Quantitative: STATA, SPSS

Qualitative: NVivo, DeDoose

Survey: Qualtrics

Concept Mapping: Concept Systems