

IT'S ABOUT A BILLION LIVES WORLDWIDE

UCSF Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education

Fall 2018, Vol 9

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San Francisco Cancer Initiative:

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2018 Postdoc Tobacco Control Research Fellows

In 2018, the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education welcomes postdoctoral research talent from Duke University (Durham, North Carolina), the University of Kentucky, Lexington, the University of Texas, Dallas and the University of California, Merced! Their interests are grounded in molecular genetics, microbiology, behavioral neuroscience, psychopharmacology, epidemiology and psychology with an emphasis on health. Our fellows share a desire to address infectious diseases, such as cancer and HIV, and to increase consciousness about ethnic health disparities and global public health conditions. Their dedication inspires our faculty to continue providing the quality of mentorship that develops scientists whose research influences behavioral norms and policy in the US and abroad, leading to improved health outcomes worldwide.



Arturo Durazo, PhD earned his doctorate in Health Psychology at the University of California, Merced, and focuses on psychosocial factors that promote protective behaviors among those with disproportionate burdens of illness associated with membership in low socio-economic and ethnic minority groups. His research, guided by self-regulation theory, examines how illness and risk beliefs, particularly those relating to fatalistic control beliefs, influence emotional reactions such as illness worry and, in turn, either motivate or deter protective health behaviors (e.g. diet, physical activity, smoking cessation). These findings are used to guide the development of tailored health communications to promote

adaptive health decision making. His dissertation research involves the development of mHealth programs for cancer control and promoting physical activity. As a postdoctoral fellow at the UCSF CTCRE, Arturo plans to involve cancer patients and survivors to examine the relationship between their views on cancer, affect in response to cancer, and tobacco abuse. These findings are to inform health communications promoting smoking cessation in cancer patients and survivors.



Amy Hafez, PhD received her doctorate in Molecular Genetics and Microbiology from Duke University where she investigated the intersection of cancer research and infectious diseases. Her dissertation research focused on an oncogenic human tumor virus called Epstein-Barr virus. Epstein-Barr virus is known to infect about 95% of adults worldwide and has been causally linked to oral cancers and various types of lymphoma. Amy's research directly contributed to the mechanistic understanding of metabolic factors necessary for human cancer progression. While at Duke, Amy authored and co-authored several scientific research papers and book chapters during her PhD career. She was selected to receive the Viral Oncology Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA), the recipient of numerous travel awards, including the Viral Oncology Award and the Duke Chairman's Meritorious Award, and received three Best Poster awards at research conferences and symposia. Prior to earning a PhD, Amy received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Salisbury University in Salisbury, Maryland and a Master of Science in Biotechnology from Johns Hopkins University. Amy has built a career in biomedical research and is excited to apply her cancer research training to the public health studies conducted at CTCRE with the objective of helping ➡ produce strong tobacco control regulation.

SAVE THE DATE: "It's About A Billion Lives" Symposium

Friday, Feb 1, 2019, from 8:00AM—12:30PM

Keynote: Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva, MD, PhD, WHO - FCTC

New Fellows' Bios (continued)



Arit Harvanko, PhD received his doctorate in Behavioral Neuroscience and Psychopharmacology from the University of Kentucky, in Lexington, in 2018. His past research activities at the University of Minnesota and University of Kentucky have involved clinical research on problem gambling and alcohol use, impulsivity and its role in addictive behaviors, clinical treatments for tobacco use, and factors contributing to the abuse liability of drugs. His most recent work focuses on using a behavioral pharmacology approach to understanding how electronic cigarette liquid ingredients affect their abuse liability. Specifically, his dissertation work entitled “The Self-Reported and Behavioral Effects of Propylene Glycol and Vegetable Glycerin in Electronic Cigarette Liquids” examined the influence of two requisite electronic cigarette liquid ingredients on their abuse liability. Findings from this research suggest that propylene glycol and vegetable glycerin do not have a major impact on the behavioral effects of electronic cigarette liquids. Overall, Arit's primary goal is to conduct research that informs regulatory decisions and treatment programs aimed at reducing the negative impact tobacco and other drugs have on public health.



Nhung Nguyen, PhD received her PhD in Epidemiology from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Texas (2014), and her BS in Pharmacy from Hanoi University of Pharmacy, Vietnam (2008). She previously worked as a lecturer at Dept. of Pharmacoepidemiology, Hanoi University of Pharmacy (Vietnam), and as a research assistant at Dept. of Behavioral Science, MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Her past research included cigarette smoking and other substance uses among vulnerable populations (e.g., HIV-positive people, illicit drug users). Specifically, her dissertation was among the first to examine smoking prevalence, nicotine dependence, and motivation to quit among people living with HIV/AIDS in Vietnam. At CTCRE, she wants to gain new knowledge in application of technology and social media in smoking cessation for smokers with polysubstance use, and in smoking prevention among youth and young adults.

Congratulations to our Newest Alumni as they move on to Faculty positions!

Eric Crosbie, PhD, at University of Nevada, Reno; Natalie Alizaga, PhD, at Cañada College in Redwood City, California; and Yogi Hendlin, PhD, at Erasmus University, in Rotterdam, The Netherlands ~ **Best Wishes to All! You will be missed!**

Yes on E! San Francisco Bans Menthol and Flavored Tobacco Products

“As far as I’m concerned” said Dr. Valerie Yerger, UCSF Associate Professor in Social and Behavioral Sciences and public health leader, “San Francisco’s flavored ordinance is one of the best things that has ever happened in tobacco control. This ordinance says to the world that San Francisco is in the front line of defense against a social injustice that has for far too long been affecting African Americans, youth, the LGBTQ community, and other communities of color.” In June, 2017, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on a bill introduced by Supervisor Malia Cohen to end the sale of flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes. However, RJ Reynolds (US subsidiary of British American Tobacco) launched a ballot initiative to overturn the law and provided \$12 million for the campaign to do so. Tobacco control advocates did not surrender. An enthusiastic and committed effort of researchers and concerned citizens continued to educate the community that tobacco companies have a long history of developing and marketing flavored tobacco products as “starter” products that attract kids. Flavors mask the harshness of tobacco products, making them more appealing and easier for kids to try the product and to become addicted. By June, 2018, with 68.4% voting “Yes on E”, San Francisco voters prevented RJ Reynolds’ effort to overturn San Francisco’s ban on flavored tobacco products.



2019 ‘Billion Lives’ Symposium Keynote Speaker:

Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva, MD, PhD, Head of the Convention Secretariat,
World Health Organization - Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

CTCRE Postdoc Mentors Are The Best!

When research intern Sarah Small was asked to summarize her experience at the Tobacco Center she said, “**Yogi Hendlin, PhD**, is probably the most trusting mentor anyone could have—he took a chance on me when I was 20 years old. Having spent the summer doing small bits of research and lit review, I thought my time at the center would be over after a brief but exciting summer. Then a few weeks after moving back to school, Yogi emailed me asking if I'd like to help continue research



Julia McQuoid, PhD

on his projects. He made time across time zones and exam schedules to teach me and challenge me, never cutting off an overly-broad philosophical skype session on global health. Yogi even found a way to keep me on for another summer, which turned into another year, giving me the chance to draft my first public health paper. The work I have done and things I have learned with Yogi have already afforded me opportunities I wouldn't otherwise have had. I'm very grateful to have had such a great teacher”.

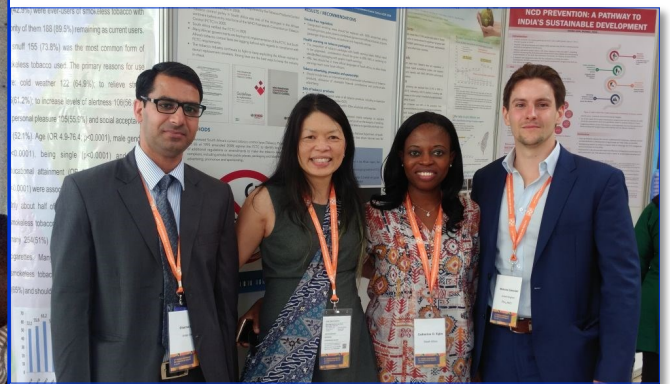
Graduate student, Gabriela Toledo, spent her summer at the CTCRE. She said, “**Julia McQuoid, PhD**, has been an incredible mentor to me. Not only has she guided me through the intricacies of qualitative work, she has opened my eyes to new ways of thinking, and has demonstrated a deep appreciation for the use of theories and conceptual frameworks in research”.



Yogi Hendlin, PhD



2018 World Conference for Tobacco On Health: CTCRE in South Africa



Left to right: Dharma Bhatta, PhD, Pamela Ling, MD, MPH, Catherine Egbe, PhD, Mateusz Zatoński, MA & CTCRE 2017 Visiting Scholar



CTCRE Alumni, Fellows & Faculty Reunion at WCTOH.

Clockwise from the top: Catherine Egbe, Stella Bialous, Jackie Drope, Wendy Max, Stanton Glantz, Marsha Glantz, Tingting Yao, Nan Jiang, Dharma Bhatta, Rijo John, Pamela Ling

Left to right: Stella Bialous, DrPH, RN, UCSF Tobacco Faculty & former mentee Catherine Egbe, PhD, Senior Research Specialist, So African Medical Research Council & CTCRE Alumni (2015-2017)



Tobacco Fellowships Available Now - Apply Online!

The CTCRE is accepting applications now for its highly regarded postdoctoral training program, which begins in July, 2019. The deadline for receiving applications is **January 23, 2019!** Our program provides extensive training in tobacco control research supervised by renowned members of the CTCRE faculty. Please visit: <https://tobacco.ucsf.edu/fellowship>

CTCRE Grant Writing Mentorship Gets Fellows Funded!

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Check us out!

<https://tobacco.ucsf.edu>

For more information:

[https://www.apha.org/
meetings/AnnualMeeting](https://www.apha.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting)

Life beyond the fellowship begins with a CV that reflects a diverse list of accomplishments, such as published research papers, presentations, teaching, professional recognition, professional coursework and grant making skills. Each cohort passes through a rigorous grant writing course, closely mentored by tenured faculty. Their goal is to get funded by at least one grant mechanism, either the Ruth L. Kirschstein NIH National Research Service Award (NRSA) or the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP) Award. Since 2016, six CTCRE fellows received funding — two NIH NRSA grant and four TRDRP grants went to CTCRE postdocs. These successes provided them with another year to continue their research on their own terms. What makes CTCRE mentorship so special? The combination of attentive participation from our faculty and their expertise as experienced grant writers with relentless attention to detail.

CTCRE Fellows & Alumni Shine in San Diego



American Public Health Association

Fellows, Faculty & Fun! Come check out the latest Tobacco Center research and reconnect with CTCRE Alumni at the APHA Conference in San Diego! Events begin on Sunday, November 11, 2018. Please stop by **Booth #1034** to hear updates on alternative tobacco products, improving cannabis regulatory laws and how the battle to ban flavored tobacco products in San Francisco was won!



Featured Publication: Role of stakeholders in Nigeria's tobacco control journey after the (FCTC) Framework Convention in Tobacco Control: lessons for tobacco control advocacy in low-income and middle-income countries

Catherine Egbe, PhD, joined the Fellowship Program in 2015, the first African woman to join the program since its inception. Committed to bringing her expertise back to her native continent, she returned to South Africa in 2017, accepting a position as a Senior Research Specialist at the South African Medical Research Council. Dr. Egbe's paper, "The Role of stakeholders in Nigeria's tobacco control journey after the Framework Convention in Tobacco Control: lessons for tobacco control advocacy in low-income and middle-income countries", published in the journal, Tobacco Control (July, 2018), discusses Nigeria's efforts to ratify the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), and how tobacco control advocates in Nigeria achieved some successes in countering tobacco industry interference to implement the FCTC. Data was analyzed and interpreted using the Policy Dystopia Model and WHO categories of tobacco industry interference, developed primarily based on experience in high-income countries. However, the tobacco industry continued to oppose tobacco control policies even after Nigeria ratified the FCTC, including weakening Nigeria's 2015 Tobacco Control Act. Although the tobacco industry continued to oppose tobacco control policies, tobacco control advocates mobilized prominent Nigerians and the public. Advocates also preempted the industry by using traditional and social media, monitoring and exposing industry activities, and by actively engaging lawmakers and citizens through the legislative process. The Policy Dystopia Model and WHO categories of industry interference provided a helpful framework for understanding tobacco control debates in low/middle-income countries, in the same way as they had in high-income countries.

Click here to view this article:

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tobaccocontrol-2018-054344](https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/early/2018/07/25/tobaccocontrol-2018-054344)



Catherine Egbe, PhD

Did you know? The programs and activities of the CTCRE are supported by private gifts as well as government and foundation funds. Many critical and innovative programs of the CTCRE are made possible in part by gifts from individuals and family foundations. If you or your organization would like to know more information about our program or make a donation, please email our Administrative Director, Jonathan Leff, at jonathan.leff@ucsf.edu Or, call 415-476-4683