

IT'S ABOUT A BILLION LIVES WORLDWIDE

# UCSF Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education

Fall 2020

## Quick Links:

Home Page:

[www.tobacco.ucsf.edu](http://www.tobacco.ucsf.edu)

Truth Tobacco Industry Documents:

[www.industrydocumentslibrary.ucsf.edu](http://www.industrydocumentslibrary.ucsf.edu)

San Francisco Cancer Initiative:

<http://www.sfcancer.org/>

Smoke Free Movies:

[www.smokefreemovies.ucsf.edu](http://www.smokefreemovies.ucsf.edu)

Fontana Tobacco Treatment:

[https://www.ucsfhealth.org/clinics/tobacco\\_treatment\\_center/](https://www.ucsfhealth.org/clinics/tobacco_treatment_center/)

## Inside this issue:

CTCRE Director and Founder, Stanton A. Glantz, PhD, Retires! 2

CTCRE Alumni Recognized with the Champion Women in Science Award! 3

CTCRE Fellows Get Funding! 3

CTCRE Fellows Present at the 2020 Virtual APHA Conference 3

Postdoctoral Fellowships Available - Apply Now! 3

## 2020 Postdoc Tobacco Control Research Fellows

2020 — Public health takes center stage with the devastating effects of a global pandemic, COVID-19. Saying good-bye to our fellows who moved on to new positions from a virtual platform was heartbreaking and welcoming new fellows by that same digital format was awkward to say the least. However, the CTCRE has continued to move forward because mask or no mask, folks have not stopped smoking and vaping! Amidst these obstacles and relentless uncertainty, progress is occurring! Eager and determined, young researchers have driven across the country to join us, and they are “zooming” in from near and far to contribute their talents and ambitions to our shared mission — improving health outcomes for all! As we look forward to no longer working virtually, we are taking this opportunity to refresh, reset and renew in the areas of leadership, while growing our fellowship program with the support of our CTCRE alumni and colleagues, located on every continent except Antarctica! We encourage you to visit our website to learn of new published works, presentations and policy influences by our fellows and researchers, whose efforts have not slowed down. If you are interested in a dynamic postdoctoral experience in tobacco control research, including research on cannabis, e-cigarettes and tobacco related industries — Apply Now! We are continuing to fund two-year fellowships.



**Jelena Mustra Rakic, PhD**, received her PhD in Biochemical and Molecular Nutrition from Tufts University in Boston. Her dissertation was focused on elucidating the effect and mechanisms of the naturally occurring carotenoid, lycopene, on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung carcinogenesis and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. The important finding from her PhD implicated smoking-related alterations in lipid metabolism as one of main pathways leading to chronic inflammation and lung diseases development. As a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education, Dr.

Mustra Rakic is interested in exploring the effects of tobacco smoking and/or vaping on biochemical properties of lipids and lipoproteins that contribute to excessive inflammation, and the risk of chronic diseases, particularly cardiovascular disease and cancer.



**Joshua Miller, PhD**, received his PhD from The Catholic University of America in Politics. His forthcoming book, *Law-and-Order Presidents: From Catching Fugitive Slaves to Caging Immigrants* demonstrates that law-and-order is a presidential power that began with the recovery of fugitive slaves, was redirected during Reconstruction by Congress to protect African Americans from police brutality and racial violence and preceded the president's efforts to combat street-level crime. Recently, Dr. Miller served on the House Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy where he contributed to efforts to pressure the FDA to ban flavored vaping products. During his CTCRE fellowship, Dr. Miller will focus on the political and policy context for marijuana and tobacco control, especially as it relates to black political and economic behavior.

**SAVE THE DATE: “It’s About A Billion Lives” Virtual Symposium**

**Friday, Jan 28, 2021, from 8:00AM—12:30PM**

**Keynote: Stanton A. Glantz, PhD**

## New Fellows' Bios (continued)



**Poonam Rao, MD**, graduated as a MBBS from Pt. B.D Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Rohtak, India in 2016. After graduation, she worked for some time as a General Physician in rural India. She moved to the United States in 2017 to pursue higher education as a physician-scientist, and completed clinical observerships in the Jackson Health System, Miami, and at the Cleveland Clinic, Florida. As she wants to integrate both research and clinical practice in the long term, after some clinical training, she pivoted towards research. Dr. Rao joined the Springer Lab at UCSF in 2018, starting as a volunteer and now working as a postdoc. She planned and executed various tobacco and cannabis-related studies. Her tobacco research mainly focused on studying the cardiovascular effects of exposure to mainstream and secondhand smoke from cigarettes and marijuana and aerosol from JUUL and previous generation e-cigarettes. Along with that, she also worked on a project to study Galectin-3C (antifibrotic drug) effects on post-myocardial infarction remodeling in animals. Dr. Rao is excited to join the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education. She is interested in learning how new emerging products, especially e-cigarettes/IQOS and ultrasonic vaping devices, are impacting the cardiovascular health and perceptions held by youth and adults and their more effective cessation messages and techniques. During her fellowship, she plans to learn and explore more about behavioral human studies.

**Nadia Gaber, PhD** received her PhD from the joint program in medical anthropology from UCSF and UC Berkeley, and is obtaining her MD at UCSF with support from the National Institutes of Health and Medical Scientist Training Program. Her research on the politics of urban health and safety in the U.S. considers how the social and material legacies of industrial capitalism flow between body and environment. Her current book project based on her dissertation, "Life After Water: Detroit, Flint and the Postindustrial Politics of Health," examines water as a social force through which contemporary biopolitics of race, economy and environment are being reworked. It combines critical theory and ethnography with community-led participatory research to look specifically at governance debates over contaminants such as lead and PFAS in drinking water, advocates' struggles to make the harms of water poverty institutionally legible, and broader claims to water as an urban commons in racially-segregated urban space.



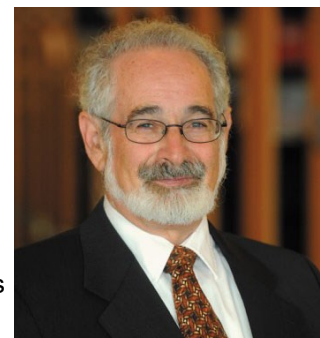
## HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY CENTER FOR TOBACCO CONTROL RESEARCH & EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

### CTCRE Director, Stanton A. Glantz, PhD, Retires!

On September 8, 2020, Stanton A. Glantz, PhD, announced that he was officially passing the torch as Director of the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education by embarking on his journey into retirement. Those of us that have benefitted from working along side Dr. Glantz know that his influence and contribution to tobacco control research is legendary. He produced seminal work in the biology of secondhand smoke exposure on the cardiovascular system, the health and economic impact of tobacco control programs, and pioneered the study of the tobacco industry as the vector for tobacco related disease and death. This work has been fundamental to support smoke-free policies and tobacco control programs in California, nationally and globally, saving billions of dollars in healthcare costs and hundreds of thousands of lives. Pamela Ling, MD, MPH, who has been mentored by Dr. Glantz for many years and worked closely with him as Director of the Postdoctoral Fellowship Program has been named as Interim Director of the Tobacco Center. "In my nearly 30 years at UCSF," she writes, "I have encountered many great minds, warm hearts, and strong leaders. Stan Glantz is the best among them." His Tobacco Center staff and many colleagues and friends echo Dr. Ling's sentiment. We look forward to celebrating with Dr. Glantz, and carrying on his commitment to tobacco control research and continuing to fight the adversaries and obstacles that stand in the way of achieving a smoke free world!



Pamela Ling, MD, MPH



Stanton A. Glantz, PhD



## Tobacco Research Fellowships Available Now - Apply Online!

Recognizing the difficulty placed on individuals to relocate during COVID-19 restrictions, applications are being accepted on a rolling basis until positions are filled !

The CTCRE 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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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 course-work 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. Between 2006-2020, approximately 40% of CTCRE postdocs have been awarded funding as Principal Investigators. These successes provided them with at least one additional year to continue their research studies on their own terms. What makes CTCRE mentorship so special? The combination of attentive participation by our faculty and their expertise as experienced grant writers with relentless attention to detail.

Check us out!

<https://tobacco.ucsf.edu>

For more information:

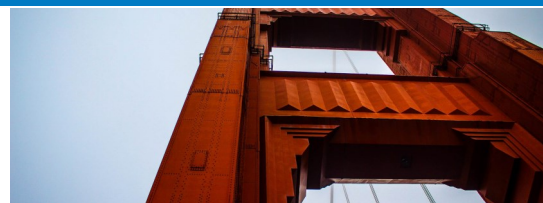
<https://www.apha.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting>

## CTCRE Fellows Presenting at Virtual APHA 2020



American Public Health Association

Would you be interested in meeting with some of our postdocs or faculty? Please email us at [tobacco.fellowship@ucsf.edu](mailto:tobacco.fellowship@ucsf.edu) You can also visit us at virtual **Booth 1920**. We look forward to meeting you and hearing about your research!



## CTCRE Alumni Get Recognized!

*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](mailto:jonathan.leff@ucsf.edu) or call 415-476-4683*

**Catherine Egbe, PhD, Specialist Scientist, South African Medical Research Council, Receives Champion Women in Science Award** for her extensive research on smoking and acquisition of COVID-19 and disease outcomes. She published her work on the lockdown and tobacco ban in South Africa and submitted three expert affidavits in support of government's cases against Fair Trade Independent Tobacco Association (FITA) and British American Tobacco South Africa (BATSA). She shared her research findings with Prof Salim Abdool Karim, chairperson of the Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) on COVID-19 and continues to be interviewed by several local and international media on this topic.



**Frank Bandiera, PhD, Health Science Administrator, National Institute on Aging, Recognized as Outstanding Senior Alumnus of the Year** by the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Florida, where Dr. Bandiera earned his MPH. Colleagues chose Dr. Bandiera because of his excellence in professional achievements and exceptional leadership in the advancement of public health.

For more about CTCRE Alumni, please visit: <https://tobacco.ucsf.edu/alumni>

## Congratulations to our Newest Alumni!

Manali Vora, BDS, Dental Resident, University of Connecticut; Amit Yadav, PhD, Senior Technical Advisor in Tobacco Control, The Union, New Delhi, India; Arit Harvanko, PhD, Pharmacology Scientist, FDA Center for Tobacco Products; Julia McQuoid, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Oklahoma

**Best Wishes ~ We Miss You All !!!**