

IT'S ABOUT A BILLION LIVES WORLDWIDE



Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education

Fall 2023

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CTCRE Home Page:

www.tobacco.ucsf.edu

Truth Tobacco Industry Documents:

library.ucsf.edu/archives/industry-documents

Smoking Cessation Leadership Center (SCLC):

smokingcessationleadership.ucsf.edu

Fontana Tobacco Treatment:

ucsfhealth.org/clinics/fontana-tobacco-treatment-center/

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2023 CTCRE Postdoctoral Research Fellows

Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education wishes to thank our alumni, fellows, faculty and our extended family of research colleagues for their support during the past three years! You continued to show up for us and to send terrific candidates our way. Our research center is led by three dedicated tobacco control research experts, Pamela Ling, Maya Vijayaraghavan and Dorie Apollonio. Their collaboration with several other UCSF faculty mentors, form CTCRE's Fellowship Committee. Our research fellowship program currently funds thirteen postdoctoral scholars. Training the next generation of tobacco control researchers and expanding our reach into understanding the dangers of other related substances is our mission.



Danielle Kabella, PhD, received their doctorate in Human and Social Dimension of Science and Technology at Arizona State University's School for the Future of Innovation. Their doctoral research offers an ethnographic study that makes visible alternative strategies Chicana communities use to articulate place-based drug recovery futures in New Mexico. They have co-developed and implemented ways of connecting their scholarship to broader and diverse audiences. Their work was featured on *The Dirt Podcast* and has been recognized by the *ASU Social Justice Spotlight Award*. During their time at ASU, they co-taught courses on Substance Abuse and Addictive Behaviors, Decolonized Collaborative Online International Learning (DCOIL), and Sociology. They were a *DEI Inclusive Teaching Fellow* where they helped to adapt DCOIL tools for graduate Global Technology and Development courses. As an Opioid Industry Documents Archive (OIDA) postdoctoral fellow, Kabella plans to conduct research that enables scrutiny and analysis of the manifestation of place and race in the wider context of corporate and regulatory practice.



Deanna Halliday, PhD, received her doctorate in Psychological Sciences (Health Psychology) from the University of California, Merced under the mentorship of UCSF alumna Dr. Anna Song. Prior to joining the CTCRE, she was awarded a TRDRP pre-doctoral fellowship for her dissertation work on tobacco and cannabis co-use. Her work examines the multi-level factors that contribute to tobacco and cannabis use spanning from internal psychological factors to social and community-level factors. Dr. Halliday hopes to further explore the phenomena of co-use in under-resourced, rural, or otherwise vulnerable communities.

Save the Date: "It's About A Billion Lives" Symposium

Friday, April 26, 2024

Truth Tobacco Industry Documents Workshop

October, 2024

More Fellows' Bios



Mark Hawes, PhD, received his doctorate in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis, Brown School of Social Work where he was funded by the NIMH as a T32 Pre-Doctoral Fellow. During his time at the Brown School, he was affiliated with the Center for Mental Health Services Research, worked on projects aiming to reduce health inequities among people with serious mental illness, and co-taught a graduate course on behavioral health policy and services. Mark's recent work focused on understanding how tobacco smoking and substance use impacted outcomes in a healthy lifestyle intervention among people living in supportive housing. He wants to continue working to eliminate health inequities among people experiencing homelessness and those living in supportive housing by integrating health care services, increasing access and improving quality of tobacco and substance use treatment services. Dr. Hawes' research interests stem from his work as a hospital social worker on inpatient medical and psychiatric units, as well as in the emergency department. He holds Bachelor's and Master's of Social Work degrees and is a licensed clinical social worker.



Mehrdad Mohammadi, MD, received his credentials in medicine, public health, law and development economics from Tehran University, Tufts University and Harvard University. He has been an adjunct professor at the School of Public Health at Tehran University teaching Justice and Public Health Law. Working with the WHO, Dr. Mohammadi has advised the Ministry of Health on International Health Regulations and the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. This includes projects on tobacco content and emission regulation, tobacco products plain packaging, NGO advocacy, smoke-free cities and campuses, and liability of the tobacco industry. Dr. Mohammadi founded the NGO titled *An Iran Immune to Tobacco*.



Peter Kovacs, PhD, received his doctorate in Radio-Television-Film from the University of Texas at Austin. His research interest is the intersection between the history of audio-visual mass media and marketing communication. Dr. Kovacs' first book, *Big Tobacco and American Broadcasting, 1923-1971*, is slated for publication by UT Press. At UCSF, he intends to study the contemporary promotional practices of the US tobacco oligopoly home and abroad, focusing on the industry's effort to adapt its time-tested communication strategies to a radically new media environment. Beyond his fellowship, Dr. Kovacs intends to remain in academia to teach students about the economic, cultural and ethical dilemmas of commodity promotion.



Vuong Do, PhD, received his doctorate in Public Health (Epidemiology) from the School of Public Health, Georgia State University. While at Georgia State, he received the Second Century Initiative fellowship and worked as a graduate research assistant for faculty members of the tobacco control group. Dr. Do's tobacco control studies include examining the effect of e-cigarette marketing exposure among American youth, factors associated with concurrent use behaviors of cigarettes and e-cigarettes, and the development of smoking cessation programs. His dissertation examined racial and ethnic disparities in tobacco use, marketing exposure, and the indirect effects of advertising exposure on subsequent use among youth. As a postdoctoral fellow at the CTCRE, Dr. Do will examine tobacco and cannabis co-use patterns among young adults, risk perceptions, and contextual factors to inform cessation programs. In addition, Dr. Do is interested in studying tobacco and cannabis use and health disparities among racial/ethnic minority groups.

CTCRE Welcomes Fulbright Scholar, Samantha Filby, MS

Samantha Filby, MS, is an Economics PhD candidate at University of Cape Town in South Africa, and is sponsored by a Fulbright Scholarship to spend a year at the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education. She also serves as a member of the research team at the Research Unit on the Economics of Excisable Products, based at her home university. Her work focuses on the economics of tobacco control in low and middle-income countries (LMICs), with special interest in the price responsiveness and affordability of tobacco products, and the impact of different types of tobacco tax structures on price distributions and public health outcomes, in the LMIC-setting. As a Visiting Scholar, Samantha will continue her PhD research studies and support other faculty and fellows at the Center in their activities geared toward producing high-quality outcomes that promote public health.



Samantha Filby, MS,
University of Cape Town

UCSF Launches a Tobacco Control Research Postdoc Mentorship Program for San Francisco State University Students at CTCRE!

The Tobacco Center Welcomes SF BRIDGE Scholars! In 2023, California state funding (Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program) provided for a pilot program “Smoke and Vape-Free Scholars Initiative” (SVFSI) which is a partnership between UCSF and SF State University, allowing the Tobacco Center fellows to get mentorship experience while making it possible for SFSU undergraduate and graduate students to gain research experience in the lab, in the field, learning data analysis, and many other skills. Pictured below are the SFSU research trainees that call **“We Got Next!”**



Brianna Mejia-Carreno, Second Year, Master's Program

Kathryn Constantino, Senior Year, Bachelor's Program



Samantha Christie, First Year, Master's Program

Reni Rubio, Junior Year, Bachelor's Program



Congratulations to our Newest Alumni!

J. Alton Croker, PhD, Assistant Professor, Dept of Health Services Policy & Management, University of South Carolina

Shephali Gandhi, MD, Assistant Professor, Occupational Health, UCSF

Vira Pravosud, PhD, Assistant Research Scientist, SF Veteran's Administration Medical Center

We are so proud of your accomplishments !!!





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Check us out!

<https://tobacco.ucsf.edu>

Tobacco Research Fellowships Available Now - Apply Online!

The CTCRE is accepting applications now for its highly regarded postdoctoral training program, for fellowships beginning in **July, 2024**. **Please submit your application by Jan 31, 2024!** Our program provides extensive training in tobacco control research with mentorship by renowned members of the CTCRE faculty.

Please visit our website: <https://tobacco.ucsf.edu/fellowship>

CTCRE Grant Writing Mentorship Gets Fellows Funded!

Life beyond the fellowship begins with a CV that reflects a diverse list of accomplishments, such as published research papers, presentations, teaching experience, professional recognition, coursework and grant making skills. Each cohort passes through a rigorous grant writing course, closely mentored by tenured faculty. **Between 2006-2022, at least 23 CTCRE postdocs have been awarded funding as Principal Investigator.** These successes provided them with additional years to continue their research studies on their own terms. What makes CTCRE mentorship so special? It is the combination of attentive participation by our faculty and their expertise as experienced grant writers with relentless attention to detail.

For more information about our CTCRE Fellowship Alumni, please visit:

<https://tobacco.ucsf.edu/alumni>

**Fellows, Faculty & Alumni
Reunite at Atlanta APHA!
CTCRE - Booth 1226**



American Public Health Association

Featured Publication: "Silicosis Among Immigrant Engineered Stone (Quartz) Countertops Fabrication Workers in California"

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

Silicosis is a pulmonary condition caused by exposure to the silica dust when workers are cutting and grinding engineered or synthetic stone countertops. Sadly, the laborers that are often doing this work are Latino immigrants and unsuspecting of the health risk that it poses. **Sheiphali Gandhi, MD**, is a pulmonologist specializing in occupational and environmental respiratory diseases. She graduated from Indiana University School of Medicine in 2012. She went to the University of Minnesota for her internal medicine and global health chief residencies. While she was a postdoctoral scholar at the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education, Dr. Gandhi planned to investigate the environmental and occupational risk factors for mesothelioma through a case-control study in collaboration with the California Department of Public Health and the California Cancer Registry. The research efforts of Dr. Gandhi and her co-authors on this study, are bringing much needed attention to this deadly disease and reveal another example of health inequity for the immigrant worker population. Their study, now published in *JAMA Internal Medicine* (July 2023), revealed that of the 52 male patients that met the inclusion criteria, 19% did not survive; their ages ranged from 38-51 at the time of their deaths. The study is rapidly gaining attention. Dr. Gandhi has been interviewed by KCBS, NPR and the Los Angeles Times. "Our study demonstrates that there is no other cause of the type of lung disease that they have other than the silica that they're breathing" said Dr. Gandhi, "The average consumer would be absolutely horrified to know how dangerous silica is for workers."



Sheiphali Gandhi, MD
Assistant Clinical
Professor, UCSF

See article: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/article-abstract/2807615>