

Traineeships in AIDS Prevention Studies

The Traineeships in AIDS Prevention Studies ^[1] (TAPS) program prepares scientists for academic and public health careers by offering two- and three-year postdoctoral fellowships in studies relating to the prevention of AIDS. The ARI provides fiscal support to the fellowship program in keeping with its mission to nurture the next generation of leaders. Offered through the UCSF Department of Medicine, TAPS is located at the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS). CAPS, with its unique combination of institutional resources and access to groundbreaking, state-of-the-art HIV research and researchers, provides an excellent environment for postdoctoral training. ARI provides financial support to this program; more information, including for applicants, can be found on the TAPS website ^[2].

Current TAPS Postdoctoral Fellows

Glenda Baguso, PhD, RN, MPH, has been an Registered Nurse since 2005 and graduated with her PhD in Nursing from UCSF in September of 2017. She completed her MPH in Epidemiology at UC Berkeley during her TAPS fellowship, in 2019. Glenda's research focuses on the factors that impact HIV care among marginalized populations, specifically the transgender community. Her graduate research focused on health disparities in transgender women living with HIV, with her dissertation addressing structural factors associated with poor health outcomes among transwomen living with HIV in San Francisco, as well as impacts of stigmatization and discrimination on the HIV care continuum in Transwomen. She is interested in using her fellowship training to improve on methods that increase recruitment of marginalized communities into research and increase engagement and retention to health care.

Anna M. Leddy, PhD, MHS completed her Master's and Doctoral degrees in the Department of Health, Behavior and Society at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her research seeks to understand and intervene upon social and structural factors that contribute to HIV and limit engagement along the HIV care continuum. Most of her work is conducted in sub-Saharan Africa and involves vulnerable populations including adolescent girls, young women, and female sex workers. For her doctoral dissertation, Anna explored how aspects of the sex work environment, including stigma and discrimination towards sex workers and norms about substance use, shape sex workers' risk for gender based violence and HIV. Her research is informed by social and behavioral theory and employs both qualitative and quantitative methods to gain a more nuanced understanding of the dynamics that increase risk for HIV and limit engagement in HIV care and treatment.

Chemtai Mungo, MD, MPH, studied Medicine at UCSF. She holds a Master's of Public Health in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from Johns Hopkins University and completed her

Residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Kaiser, San Francisco. As a Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellow, she had the opportunity of returning to her native Western Kenya to work with the FACES (Family AIDS Care and Education Services) team, mentored by Drs. Megan Huchko, Craig Cohen, and Elizabeth Bukusi, to study cervical cancer and improve access to screening and treatment for HIV positive women, who are disproportionately affected. While at FACES, she came to understand the powerful role of clinical research in filling in the data gap within weak health systems. In collaboration with in-country health leadership, clinical research has the ability to improve access and health outcomes. Consequently, Dr. Mungo pursued further training in Obstetrics and Gynecology, fueled by her commitment towards improving women's health in resource-limited settings. As a TAPS fellow, Dr. Mungo has continued to work with the FACES/UCSF collaboration in advancing cervical cancer screening and prevention strategies among HIV infected women in Western Kenya. In Kenya, she is working with local leadership and collaborators to understand and enhance health systems serving women with a goal to advance equity and health for women in East Africa.

Sarah Puryear, MD, MPH, is an infectious disease fellow at UCSF and completed her MPH at UC Berkeley through the TAPS fellowship in 2019. Sarah completed her MD and residency training at Johns Hopkins. She received her BS in Microbiology from the University of Georgia. Sarah is a clinician-researcher focused on improving care for underserved and impoverished populations globally. Her research has concentrated on HIV and tuberculosis in Southern and East Africa. She was subsequently an Afya Bora Fellow with CDC-Nairobi, where she focused on HIV/TB program implementation and TB epidemiology. Working with research mentors Gabe Chamie and Diane Havlir, Sarah's current research is focused on TB preventative strategies in HIV patients in Uganda and Kenya as well as characterizing TB infection in the era of HIV test and treat.

Edda I. Santiago-Rodríguez, DrPH, MPH, MA completed all her studies at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR). She has a master's degree in Social-Community Psychology and another one in General Public Health. Her doctoral degree in Public Health was focused on Social Determinants of Health. For her doctoral dissertation, she completed a mixed methods study where she identified structural barriers and facilitators for HIV prevention services among young gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men in Puerto Rico. In the past, she was the STD/HIV Prevention Director and a Program Coordinator for the HIV Surveillance System at the Puerto Rico Department of Health. As a TAPS fellow, Edda plans to continue studying the impact of social determinants of health, including stigma, on the access and use of HIV Prevention Services among the Latino population in the US and Puerto Rico. Additionally, she plans to further develop her mixed methods research skills.

Sarah Gutin, PhD, has recently received her PhD from the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education at the University of Michigan School of Public Health under the mentorship of Dr. Gary Harper. Her dissertation focused on safer conception approaches for women living with HIV in Botswana. Her research interests focus on the intersection of reproductive health and HIV care in global contexts, family planning, fertility desires, and HIV stigma. Sarah has 15 years of experience leading and overseeing research as well as HIV and reproductive health projects in both the US and various sub-Saharan African countries, including South Africa, Uganda, Mozambique, and Botswana. Her prior research has focused on the use of family planning methods by women living with HIV in South Africa and Uganda. Sarah also has experience in monitoring and evaluating country programs on the prevention and care of obstetric fistula, family planning revitalization, and integration of family planning

and HIV care. She has developed curricula about reproductive health, family planning, and Positive Prevention. Sarah has previously held positions at the San Francisco General Hospital with Dr. Karen Meckstroth, at the UCSF Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health with Dr. Jillian Henderson, and the UCSF Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS) where she was the HIV prevention coordinator for a CDC funded grant (under Dr. Carol Dawson Rose) that expanded Positive Prevention training for health care providers in Mozambique. Sarah begins her TAPS fellowship at CAPS in September 2019 under the mentorship of Dr. Carol Camlin. She will also work on the R01 Mobility and Risk in SEARCH Communities (Camlin) starting in August 2019.

Miranda Iverson Hill, PhD, received her PhD from the Department of Health Promotion and Behavior at the University of Georgia. *Exploring social network support and medication adherence among transgender women living with HIV: The TRANSFORM Study.*? Her prior work includes designing and implementing a qualitative study exploring social influences on health and HIV treatment within networks of African American cis- and transgender women living with HIV. Her research interests center around social networks, HIV/AIDS, and gender disparities. While Dr. Hill is broadly interested in the networks of both cisgender and transgender women living with HIV (TWLH), her current focus is to contribute a holistic understanding of the social networks of TWLH. During her TAPS training, she is interested in building on this research by identifying interpersonal mechanisms which influence HIV treatment, such as social norms, social control, and violence. Additionally, her research goals include identifying the structure and characteristics of provider networks which optimize access and adherence to ART and evaluating the social epidemiology of syndemics within transgender communities through sociocentric network analysis. Miranda plans to begin her TAPS fellowship in early 2020.

Kimberly Hartson, PhD, completed her doctorate in social psychology at UC Santa Barbara with a focus on health psychology. Her interest in HIV began with an internship to develop and implement an HIV/AIDS educational curriculum focused on reducing HIV stigma in Lesotho. In grad school, her research focused on how individuals respond to threats and using psychological interventions to reduce stress and improve responses to potential threats. She received a Fulbright fellowship to return to Lesotho, where she conducted studies of ways to reduce HIV stigma among rural high school students, the correlates and consequences of stress associated with local political instability, and how to reduce stress and improve well-being among HIV-positive individuals. Her interests include psychological interventions to reduce stress among HIV-positive individuals and the physiological implications of this. Further, Kimberly is interested in how HIV stigma interacts with other stigma and high?HIV risk identities to influence HIV testing, adherence, disclosure and overall health and well-being.

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Links

[1] <http://caps.ucsf.edu/training/taps>

[2] <https://prevention.ucsf.edu/education/traineeships-aids-prevention-studies>