

Meet Your Mentors



DIANE BENEVENTI, PHD
Clinical Psychology

- Mental health in clinical research
- Medication provision and integrated counseling
- Extending evidence-based tobacco treatment to underserved community members
- Education and dissemination in tobacco treatment to health care providers

[Learn more about Dr. Beneventi](#)

JANICE A. BLALOCK, PHD
Clinical Psychology

- Tailoring treatment and dissemination for vulnerable populations of smokers
- Smoking cessation interventions for smokers with comorbid psychiatric and medical disorders, such as depression and anxiety disorders
- Smoking, mood, and anxiety disorders in cancer patients
- Role of anxiety and trauma in smoking and smoking cessation treatment outcomes

[Learn more about Dr. Blalock](#)



MEGAN (MAGGIE) BRITTON, PHD
Social and Health Psychology

- Promoting early detection of cancer via screening
- Health disparities; cultural underpinnings of substance use for minoritized racial and ethnic groups
- Dissemination and implementation of tobacco control, screening, and treatment
- Community-engaged tobacco control interventions with behavioral health

[Learn more about Dr. Britton](#) / [Learn about Dr. Britton's Tobacco Health Equity and Cancer Prevention Science Lab](#)



PAUL M. CINCIRIPINI, PHD

Clinical Psychology, Psychophysiology

- Behavioral and pharmacological treatments for nicotine dependence
- Psychological, psychophysiological, neural, and genetic predictors of treatment outcome
- Role of depression and trauma in nicotine dependence
- Smoking cessation for populations with psychiatric and medical comorbidities, including depression, pregnancy, and cancer

[Learn more about Dr. Cincirpini](#) / [Learn about Dr. Cincirpini's Addiction Psychophysiology Lab](#)



JENNIFER COFER, DRPH, MPH, CHES

Public Health

- Tobacco control policy adoption, implementation, and effectiveness
- Improving healthcare providers' knowledge to implement evidence-based tobacco cessation practices
- Tobacco product prevention and reducing youth initiation
- Youth and young adult tobacco and e-cigarette behaviors and tailored messaging and interventions

[Learn more about Dr. Cofer's EndTobacco Program](#)

YONG CUI, PHD

Translational Biology, Molecular Medicine

- Neurobehavioral adaptations and neurocognitive processes associated with smoking
- Impact of individual personality differences on nicotine dependence and treatment
- Leveraging novel technologies, particularly smartphone apps, to develop non-pharmacological treatments for nicotine dependence
- Tobacco regulatory science, particularly regarding electronic cigarettes

[Learn more about Dr. Cui](#)





MAHER A. KARAM- HAGE, MD

Addiction Psychiatry, Clinical Psychopharmacology

- Psychopharmacology of addictive disorders, such as nicotine and tobacco dependence
- Alcohol, tobacco and comorbid disorders
- Enhancing medical education on addiction
- Addiction psychiatry for smokers attempting to quit

[Learn more about Dr. Karam-Hage](#) / [Learn about Dr. Karam-Hage's Addiction Psychophysiology Laboratory](#)

GEORGE KYPRIOTAKIS, PHD

Applied Sociology, Quantitative Sociology

- Interdisciplinary research - sociology, statistics, psychology, and health - on tobacco use and its social contexts
- Individual psychosocial processes related to cancer preventive behaviors
- Pharmacotherapy and genetics in smoking cessation and nicotine dependence
- Quantitative methodology in health-related research; complex data analysis, such as geospatial, multilevel, and longitudinal modeling

[Learn more about Dr. Kypriotakis](#)



HILARY Y. MA, MD

Hematology, Oncology

- Lung and other cancer disparities in urban underserved populations
- Disparities in clinical trial participation
- Nutrition and physical activity in cancer survivorship
- Multidisciplinary care coordination in cancer survivorship

[Learn more about Dr. Ma](#)



ISABEL MARTINEZ LEAL, MPH, PHD

Cultural Anthropology, Public Health

- Tobacco-related dissemination and implementation science
- Health inequities among vulnerable populations, such as populations with mental health disorders, substance use disorders, and racial/ethnic minorities
- Improving delivery and quality of health care services for marginalized populations
- Qualitative and mixed methods procedures

[Learn more about Dr. Martinez Leal](#) / [Learn about Dr. Martinez Leal's Tobacco Health Equity and Cancer Prevention Science Laboratory](#)



JENNIFER A. MINNIX, PHD

Clinical Psychology

- Affective and cognitive processes of nicotine addiction
- Tobacco and comorbid psychiatric disorders
- Role of genetic markers in nicotine dependence, withdrawal, and cessation
- Implementation, tailoring, and quality of behavioral health interventions for smoking cessation

[Learn more about Dr. Minnix](#)

RUTH RECHIS, PHD

Educational Psychology

- Addressing cancer risk factors, such as tobacco use, at the community level
- Promoting wellness in communities for long-lasting solutions
- Cancer prevention and early detection projects aimed at population-level impact
- Implementing comprehensive tobacco control programs, evidence-based interventions, mass media campaigns, smoke free policies for indoor areas, and cessation treatments

[Learn more about Dr. Rechis' Be Well Communities Initiative](#)





LORRAINE R. REITZEL, PHD

Clinical Psychology

- Contextual influences on tobacco use and cessation
- Social and socioeconomic determinants of cancer, cancer risk behaviors, and health inequities
- Dissemination and implementation science in tobacco control and cessation
- Research training and professional development of diverse scholars in addictions, cancer prevention, and health equity

[Learn more about Dr. Reitzel](#) / [Learn more about Dr. Reitzel's Tobacco Health Equity and Cancer Prevention Science Laboratory](#).

JASON D. ROBINSON, PHD

Clinical Psychology

- Neurobehavioral adaptations from nicotine dependence and withdrawal
- Role of genetics in complex nicotine dependence and withdrawal
- Treatment of nicotine dependence among at-risk populations
- Designing and conducting smoking cessation clinical trials

[Learn more about Dr. Robinson](#)



SURENDRANATH SRINIVAS SHASTRI, MD

Public Health, Epidemiology, Preventive and Social Medicine, Biochemistry, Pharmacology

- Global tobacco control in low-income and resource-limited settings
- Needs assessment and feasibility
- Reducing secondhand smoke exposure in African-American communities
- Targeting highly diverse tobacco use patterns in workplace tobacco cessation programs

[Learn more about Dr. Shastri](#)



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SANJAY S. SHETE, MD

Biostatistics, Epidemiology

- Addressing smoking habits in cancer survivors and reducing the harmful effects of secondhand smoke on young people.
- Evaluating the impact of alternative tobacco products and tackling the challenges of using multiple tobacco products.
- Examining how political beliefs influence tobacco regulation and enforcement.
- Implementing tobacco control in low-income settings and using data to improve strategies.

[Learn more about Dr. Shete](#)



FRANCESCO VERSACE, PHD

Experimental Psychology, Affective Neuroscience

- Affective and cognitive neuroscience of tobacco addiction
- Individual differences in reward sensitivity and vulnerability to smoking relapse
- Dysfunctional brain mechanisms in maladaptive responses to rewards and reward-related cues
- Neurocircuitry-informed, tailored interventions for smoking cessation and weight-loss

[Learn more about Dr. Versace](#)



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