Emma J. I. Apatu, DrPH, MPH

Assistant Professor
Building 29, Room 4015
(904) 620-5400
drph.Emma@unf.edu

Courses Taught
- HSC 4730 Research in Community Health
- HSC 6716 Evaluation

Research
- Health Promotion
- Community based participatory research
- Food security
- Health program evaluation
- Disaster sociology

Biography
Dr. Apatu completed her doctoral work in Community Health at East Tennessee State University where she investigated epidemiological risk factors to human evacuation response during the Samoa September 29, 2009 earthquake and tsunami in American Samoa. Currently, Dr. Apatu is a 2015-2016 Detroit Urban Research Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Academy Partnership fellow. Dr. Apatu’s most recent research focuses on CBPR, food security, and health program evaluation.

Elissa Barr, PhD

Professor
Building 39, Room 4008
(904) 620-1479
drph.Ebarr@unf.edu

Courses Taught
- HSC 3713 Planning & Evaluating Health Programs
- HSC 4133/6138 Sexuality Education
- HSC 6587 Health Program Planning

Research Interests
- Evidence-based sexuality education & prevention programs
- Reducing risky sexual behaviors of youth and the potential negative outcomes to include teen pregnancy, STDs & HIV
- Documenting support for school-based sexuality education & implementing policy changes at the state level

Biography
Dr. Barr's research is focused on documenting support for sexuality education to drive policy change and implementation of evidence-based programs to improve risky sexual behaviors of youth. She has worked with the Florida Department of Education on various projects since 2004 including: serving on the State’s AIDS Education Advisory Council; developing and delivering onsite professional development for sexuality educators; and serving as the lead developer of an online sexual health education professional development course for Florida practitioners and educators.
Kerry Clark, MPH, PhD
Professor
Building 39, Room 3010
(904) 620-1427
kclark@unf.edu

Courses Taught
- HSC 3500 Epidemiology
- HSC 4210 Environmental Health
- HSC 6505 Epidemiology
- HSC 6215 Environmental Health

Research Interests
- Ecology and epidemiology of Lyme disease
- Human babesiosis
- Other tick-borne infectious diseases

Biography
Dr. Clark holds a Masters in Public Health Epidemiology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a Ph.D. in Environmental Health Sciences from the University of South Carolina. Dr. Clark is committed to studying the ecology and epidemiology of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases in the southern U.S. He was the first to report finding Lyme disease spirochetes in animals and ticks in South Carolina, and in wild reptiles in South Carolina and Florida. He has documented the presence of Lyme disease bacteria, Babesia, and other tick-borne pathogens in wild animals, ticks, and humans in Florida and other southern states. Recently, he discovered a previously unrecognized species of Lyme group bacteria in human patients in states across the U.S.

The primary objectives of Dr. Clark’s research are:
1. To develop better molecular/DNA based diagnostic tests for identifying the causative agents of Lyme and associated tick-borne diseases to improve sensitivity and specificity of detection, particularly from human patient samples;

2. To use improved testing methods to determine the actual frequency of Lyme disease and common co-infections in humans, the prevalence of infection in ticks, and the true tick vector species of these diseases to humans; and

3. To improve awareness and early recognition of tick-borne diseases through dissemination of the research findings and comprehensive education efforts.
Tammie M. Johnson, DrPH, MPH

Associate Professor
Building 39, Room 3011
(904) 620-1831
tammie.johnson@unf.edu

Courses Taught
- HSC 3500 Epidemiology
- HSC 6735 Health Science Research
- PHC 6003 Chronic Disease Epidemiology
- PHC 6050 Biostatistics I for Public Health

Research Interests
- Diabetes and related chronic diseases/conditions
- The relationship between chronic diseases and risk behaviors
- The relationship between chronic diseases and mental distress
- Complex survey data analysis
- Secondary data analysis

Biography
Dr. Johnson received her DrPH and MPH from Florida A&M University, both with a concentration in epidemiology and biostatistics. Prior to coming to UNF she was a Chronic Disease Epidemiologist with the Florida Department of Health. In all, Dr. Johnson has worked in the public health field since 1994 and has published in the areas of youth tobacco use, diabetes, metabolic syndrome, and youth risk behaviors.

Erin Largo-Wight, PhD

Associate Professor
Building 39, Room 4018
(904) 620-2037
largo.wight@unf.edu

Courses Taught
- HSC2100 Personal and Community Health
- HSC3032 Foundations of Community Health
- HSC6603 Theory of Health Behavior
- HSC6585 Health Education and Health Promotion Strategies

Research Interests
- Public health education and health promotion
- Effective distance learning and technology applications in behavioral research
- Environmental health promotion

Biography
Dr. Largo-Wight currently serves as the Program Director for the undergraduate Public Health program (BSH). Her research focuses on two areas of environmental health promotion. Dr. Erin Largo-Wight studies 1) brief nature contact interventions for stress reduction in the workplace ('booster work breaks') and in schools (outdoor classrooms) and 2) the determinants and promotion of environmental health behaviors (such as recycling). She serves on the UNF Environmental Center Executive Board and actively serves to promote effective DL delivery at UNF. Erin and her husband, Jeff, have three children and enjoy family time at the beach.
Julie Merten, PhD, MCHES

Assistant Professor
Building 39, Room 4014
jmerten@unf.edu

Courses Taught
- HSC 4800 Pre-Internship in Community Health
- HSC 4814 Community Health Internship
- PHC 6103 Public Health Practice

Research Interests
- Skin cancer prevention
- Health risk behaviors among college students
- Public health education and health promotion
- Secondary data analysis

Biography
Dr. Merten directs the undergraduate Community Health Internship program and teaches Public Health Practice in Master of Public Health program. Dr. Merten completed her doctoral studies at the University of Florida where she investigated the prevalence and correlates of skin cancer risk behaviors among college students. She chairs the Northeast Florida Cancer Control Collaborative Sun Safety workgroup to improve skin cancer prevention efforts in the Northeast Florida community and is involved with the strategic planning of the Florida State Cancer Plan.

Michele J. Moore, PhD

Professor
Building 39, Room 4009
(904) 620-1449
mmoore@unf.edu

Courses Taught
- PHC 6945 Public Health Internship
- PHC 6940 Public Health Capstone
- HSC 4133 Sexuality Education
- HSC 3304 Instructional Methods of Health Education
- HSC 3304 Instructional Methods of Health Education

Research Interests
- Evidence-based sexuality education programing and policy for youth
- Reducing youth and young adult sexual risk behaviors
- Multibehavioral risk reduction programs
- Public health education and health promotion

Biography
Dr. Moore received her doctorate from the University of Florida, Department of Health Education and Behavior. Currently, she is working with the Duval County Public Schools and Department of Health-Duval on a CDC funded grant to implement the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, implement evidence-based sexuality education in the schools, and increase access to sexual health services for adolescents. Previously she has worked on a number of federally and locally funded grants to improve the health of high school and college students, particularly with regard to sexuality and substance use.
Deborah Owen, MSH, CHES

Instructor
Building 39, Room 4013
(904) 620-1430
d.owen@unf.edu

Courses Taught
- HSC 3713 Planning and Evaluating Health Programs
- HSC 4150 Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention
- HSC 2100 Personal and Community Health

Research interests
- Nonmedical prescription drug use
- Tobacco prevention and cessation
- Disaster preparedness
- Public health education and health promotion

Biography
Deb Owen is an Instructor in the undergraduate Public Health program (BSH) in the Department of Public Health. She served as a research coordinator for over 8 years on federally-funded National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Department of Education (DOE) grants within the College of Health. She has co-authored numerous peer-reviewed journal articles, and has presented at national professional conferences. Her interests include grant writing, and evidence-based research on youth risk behaviors, violence prevention, and nonmedical prescription drug use. She currently serves as Faculty Advisor for the UNF chapter of Eta Sigma Gamma National Health Education Honorary society.

Sericea Stallings-Smith, DrPH, MPH

Assistant Professor
Building 39, Room 3009
(904) 620-1213
s.stallings-smith@unf.edu

Courses Taught
- HSC 3500 Epidemiology
- HSC 6735 Health Science Research
- PHC 3555 Human Diseases

Research Interests
- Environmental epidemiology
- Tobacco control
- Health inequalities
- Infectious diseases

Biography
Dr. Stallings-Smith completed her doctoral work in epidemiology at Brunel University London, United Kingdom, where she assessed the mortality effects of the national smoking ban policy in the Republic of Ireland. In addition, Dr. Stallings-Smith completed a postdoctoral fellowship in clinical epidemiology at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, where she assessed the burden and risk factors for infectious diseases among pediatric cancer patients at international partner and collaborating sites in low- and middle-income countries.