

Research Brief

Message from the Senior Associate Dean for Research

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that you have all been having a restful summer and staying cool as the heat has been reaching record highs.

Last week, we celebrated the fourth of July, also referred to as Independence Day. While many of you may have spent the holiday enjoying a long weekend of fireworks and festivities, it is important to remember why we are able to do so. This holiday marks the signing of the Declaration of Independence, which not only declared the colonies' break with Great Britain, but signifies the birth of our nation, its freedom, and its ideals. Since its adoption 247 years ago, the United States has come a long way, and has constantly redefined and reexamined its original assertion that "all men are created equal". As we enjoy the freedoms that are afforded because of this moment in history, let us also reflect on the ways in which we can truly embody the vision of freedom and equality for everyone. Through our research at GW, we hope to find ways and mechanisms to ensure an inclusive and respectful health system for all.

Happy Summer,

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Adnan Hyder, MD MPH PhD
Senior Associate Dean for Research
Professor of Global Health
Milken Institute School of Public Health

Research Project Highlight



Dr. Kyle Levers

Dr. Levers is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences and serves as the Director of the Metabolism and Exercise Testing Laboratories. Stemming from Dr. Levers' background in health and athletic performance development, his research interests are broadly focused on the application of movement, exercise, and nutrition based interventions as methods to enhance health and human performance. Dr. Levers is currently working with his research team to develop and validate a novel overhead loaded carry screen protocol to aid in the mitigation of training-related shoulder injuries in military and tactical populations. In a separate endeavor, his team is examining the impact of a multi-month wilderness backpacking expedition on markers of health, human performance, durability, and resilience. Outcomes will inform the ultra-endurance community and the general population on the influence of extended nature immersion and survival on health, psychological well-being, energy expenditure, and recovery. Since 2022, Dr. Levers has also been collaborating with Dr. Jennifer Sacke on a grassroots longitudinal cohort study of undergraduate students to assess health behavior changes, physical activity and dietary patterns, food insecurity, and health-related outcomes across their college tenure. Dr. Levers is most excited about the formal launch of the Metabolism and Exercise Testing Laboratory as means to share fee-based research services with a myriad of colleagues from the School of Public Health, GW, and greater DC Metropolitan community. The MET Laboratory provides fee-based metabolic, body composition, and human performance testing services for all types of sponsored projects. In keeping with the School of Public Health's mission, the goal is to expand individual and community based research in health, physical activity, nutrition, and human performance by providing readily accessible and professional spaces for principal investigators to engage in rigorous and reliable data collection.

Funding Opportunities



PREP Research Associate EL - 73 - Gaithersburg

National Institute of Standards (NIST), through their Professional Research Experience (PREP) program, is looking for a PREP associate to serve as the co-leader of a project on the NCST (National Construction Safety Team) investigation of Hurricane Maria's impacts on Puerto Rico. The objective of the project is to complete a quantitative mortality assessment of Puerto Rico in order to better understand how damaged buildings and failures in the supporting infrastructure played a role in the injuries and deaths associated with Hurricane Maria. **An advanced degree in medicine (MD) and/or public health (MPH) is required.** For a full list of qualifications and responsibilities, please to the full job posting [here](#).



**Ending the HIV Epidemic: Focus on Justice Populations
with SUD-Data Coordination and Dissemination Center
(UM1 Clinical Trial Optional)**

Letter of Intent Deadline: July 16, 2023

Under the Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) initiative, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is releasing a set of interrelated Request for Applications (RFAs) to create the HIV/Justice Research Network, a coordinated effort to develop innovative strategies to promote improvements in HIV prevention and treatment services for individuals involved in the criminal legal system with substance use disorder (SUD). Three interrelated Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) will collectively support a research network focused on addressing the need for integrated HIV and substance use disorder (SUD) services in justice-involved populations: **RFA-DA-24-015** seeks multiple Regional Research Hubs (RRHs); **RFA-DA-24-023** will support one Data Coordination and Dissemination Center (DCDC); and **RFA-DA-24-022** will support one Patient Engagement Resource Center (PERC). Collectively, this HIV/Justice Research Network will focus on developing scalable models for delivering HIV diagnostic, prevention and treatment services for individuals with substance use disorders (not limited to opioid use disorders) who are involved in the criminal legal system, including both adults and juveniles, whether within carceral settings (jails and prisons); under community supervision (probation and parole); or at earlier intercept points (e.g., diversion, deflection, courts). For more information on the RFAs, eligibility, and submission requirements, see the full announcement [here](#).



Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) Open-Office Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)

The Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) seeks to "make pivotal investments in breakthrough technologies and broadly applicable platforms, capabilities, resources, and solutions with the potential to transform important areas of medicine and health that cannot readily be accomplished through traditional research or commercial activity". ARPA-H opened its first Agency-wide Open Broad Agency Announcement (Open BAA), seeking funding proposals for research aiming to improve health outcomes across patient populations, communities, diseases, and health conditions. The BAA calls for proposals to outline breakthrough research and technological advancements.

Proposals should investigate unconventional approaches, and challenge accepted assumptions to enable leaps forward in science, technology, systems, or related capabilities. ARPA-H also encourages concepts to advance the objectives of President Biden's Cancer Moonshot, as well as more disease-agnostic approaches.

The open BAA is available [here](#), and will require an initial submission of a white paper. ARPA-H will then closely review the white papers on a rolling basis (4 to 6 weeks) and invite teams to apply for a full proposal.

Monthly Deadlines

July Deadlines

Continuous Deadlines

Lectures & Events



Privacy Training and Events

The GW Office of Privacy will be hosting trainings, workshops, and events throughout the summer to educate the GW community on how to be in compliance with privacy standards. On **Thursday July 13, 11:00am - 12:00pm ET**, they will be hosting a virtual event "**Privacy - Sharing University Data with Third Party Service Providers**". In this webinar, addressed to GW staff and faculty, we will review privacy considerations and implications associated with transferring university data to third party providers.

[Registration and More From GW Privacy](#)



2023 Sony Research Award Program UIDP Webinar

When: July 17, 2023, 1-2 pm ET

The University-Industry Demonstration Partnership (UIDP) provides a unique forum for representatives from universities and industries to find better ways to partner. In partnership with Sony, for its eighth year, it will be launching the Sony Research Award Program. This is an academic award initiative created to provide U.S., Canadian, select European countries, and Indian universities funding for emerging and innovative technology research projects in collaboration with Sony's own research division. With awards of up to \$150,000 per year for each accepted proposal, the Sony Research Award Program creates new opportunities for university faculty to engage in pioneering research that could drive new technologies, industries, and the future. Read more about the program [here](#).

[Register Here](#)



Courses are still available through the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health SHARP (Skills for Health And Research Professionals) program. These short, virtual trainings in omics, data science, climate, professional development, and many other topics provide immediate takeaway skills for investigators from any institution. Some workshops include Epigenetics, GIS, Bayesian Modeling, Climate Change & Health, and Environmental Justice. Courses such as **The PI's Business of Research Boot Camp: Ins and Outs of Budgets, Personnel and Project Management** and **Creating Compelling Research Narrative Workshop: Strategies for Effectively Presenting Your Science** are great for researchers/professionals looking to gain hard skills in a variety of topics. For a full list of courses and dates, and to register, please use the link below.

See the official flier [here](#).

 **Research Resources**

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Metabolism & Exercise Testing Laboratory

The Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences offers fee-based research testing services for the GW community and the greater Washington DC metro region through the Metabolism & Exercise Testing Laboratory. The overarching goal of the laboratory facility is to provide researchers and practitioners access to comprehensive testing and research resources to facilitate evidence-informed decisions regarding health, human performance, and behavior change. Their compilation of assessment services include body composition, resting and exercise metabolism, aerobic fitness, and muscular strength. The lab is conveniently located on the Foggy Bottom campus in the Milken Institute School of Public Health facility at 950 New Hampshire Avenue, NW. Please refer to the website (bodycomposition.gwu.edu) or contact the laboratory directly (bodycomposition@gwu.edu) for all inquiries, questions, and additional information.



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