



Faculty Biographies

Catherine Alfano, Ph.D.



Biography

Catherine M. Alfano, Ph.D., is the vice president of Survivorship at the American Cancer Society (ACS) where she provides vision and leadership to ACS research, programming, and policy efforts nationwide to improve the lives of cancer survivors. She previously served as deputy director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI)'s Office of Cancer Survivorship. Dr. Alfano trained as a rehabilitation psychologist and has focused her career in cancer survivorship. Dr. Alfano holds a Ph.D. in clinical psychology with an emphasis in behavioral medicine from the University of Memphis. She completed her residency in clinical rehabilitation psychology at the University of Washington Medical Center. Following her residency, she completed a clinical fellowship in oncology at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance and a post-doctoral research fellowship in Biobehavioral Cancer Prevention and Control at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the University of Washington. Her research interests include optimizing interventions and models of care for cancer rehabilitation and survivorship; healthy behavior change; and the integration of biological and behavioral pathways governing health, aging, and cancer prognosis. She has authored over 120 peer-reviewed publications and has contributed to key studies examining the effects of weight and exercise on cancer symptoms, quality of life, and prognosis. Dr. Alfano speaks internationally and domestically on cancer rehabilitation, cancer survivorship, and research and policy efforts to create effective, efficient and patient-centered care for people living with and beyond cancer. In addition to her work at the American Cancer Society, she is an adjunct professor of oncology at Georgetown University Medical Center and holds leadership positions in the Cancer Special Interest Group of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, the Research Task Force of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine's Cancer Networking Group, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology's Survivorship Committee.

Elva Arredondo, Ph.D.



Biography

Elva Arredondo, Ph.D., is a tenured professor in the Graduate School of Public Health, co-Director of the UCSD/SDSU Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health (Health Behavior track), and Core Investigator in the Institute for Behavioral and Community Health (IBACH) at San Diego State University. She is a bilingual/bicultural native of Mexico with over 18 years of research experience in developing, implementing, and evaluating community-based programs that improve the health of ethnic minority and socially/economically disadvantaged communities. Since attaining her doctoral degree in 2003, she has served as principle investigator (PI), co-PI or subcontract PI of 16 grants funded by the National Institutes of Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, American Cancer Society, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and others. Her research focuses on developing evidence-based multi-level interventions to reduce chronic diseases among Latino and other underserved communities. This research has resulted in over 100 peer reviewed publications, book chapters, and scientific entries. Currently, she is the PI of the SDSU/UCSD Cancer Center Partnership, which aims to identify effective, sustainable, and disseminable methods to prevent and control cancer in the U.S. Latino/Hispanic population (U54CA132384). As PI, she recently completed a clustered randomized controlled trial (R01 CA13889401) promoting physical activity and cancer screening among churchgoing Latinas. Dr. Arredondo is in the process of expanding the impact of this intervention to the wider community.

Steve Breckler, Ph.D.



Biography

Steven Breckler, Ph.D., is program director for Social Psychology at the National Science Foundation (NSF). Dr. Breckler is in his second rotation at NSF (which started in May 2016). He previously served as an NSF program director from 1995 to 2004. In between his NSF stints, he was the executive director for science at the American Psychological Association. He made the jump into science administration after 11 years on the faculty at Johns Hopkins University, where he taught introductory social psychology, attitudes and social influence, research methods, and multivariate statistics. His research was funded by NSF, NIH, and the American Red Cross. Dr. Breckler completed his undergraduate studies at University of California, San Diego: He did his graduate training at Ohio State University, and he held an National Institute of Mental Health-funded post-doctoral fellowship at Northwestern University.

David Buller, Ph.D.



Biography

David Buller, Ph.D., is a senior scientist and Director of Research at Klein Buendel, Inc., a health communication research company in Golden, Colorado. He received his Ph.D. in Communication from Michigan State University. Formerly, Dr. Buller was a professor of Communication and director of the Behavioral Sciences Section in the Arizona Cancer Center at the University of Arizona (1986-1997), a senior scientist at AMC Cancer Research Center (1997-2002), and the Harold Simmons Chair for Health Communication at the Cooper Institute (2002-2005). For more than 20 years, Dr. Buller has tested communication strategies in cancer prevention, most notably for skin cancer prevention. He coauthored the *Sunny Days, Healthy Ways* sun safety primary and secondary school curriculum. Dr. Buller evaluated interventions for improving occupational and recreational sun protection, promoting policy change in schools and workplaces, and using purpose-built shade, smart phones, and social media to improve sun protection and reduce indoor tanning. He also has studied technology-based interventions for community tobacco control, smoking cessation, nutrition education, and HPV vaccine uptake and dissemination and implementation of evidence-based cancer prevention interventions. Dr. Buller's research has been funded by the National Cancer Institute, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institute on Drug Abuse, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Environmental Protection Agency, and Arizona and Colorado state governments. He is a past chair of NIH's Community Influences on Health Behavior Study Section. Dr. Buller's work has been recognized by awards from the American Public Health Association, Kentucky Conference on Health Communication, and Colorado Cancer Coalition. He is a fellow of the Society of Behavioral Medicine. He has published over 180 books, chapters, and articles on his

Elliot Coups, Ph.D.



Biography

Dr. Coups received his Ph.D., in social/health psychology from Rutgers University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in cancer prevention and control at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He is currently a faculty member in the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and is associate professor of medicine at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and of health education and behavioral science at Rutgers School of Public Health. Dr. Coups' primary area of research focuses on understanding and promoting health-related behaviors among cancer survivors and individuals at risk for cancer. He has a particular interest in skin cancer prevention and control and has published on a number of relevant topics, including skin cancer-related behaviors among melanoma survivors and their family members, sun protection behaviors among Hispanic individuals, physician screening for skin cancer, and indoor tanning. In an ongoing project funded by an R01 from the National Cancer Institute, Dr. Coups is testing an online intervention to promote skin self-examination and sun protection behaviors among individuals diagnosed with melanoma. Dr. Coups' research has been supported by numerous federal and foundation grants, and he has published more than 100 journal articles, book chapters, and books.

Elvan Daniels, M.D., M.P.H.



Biography

Elvan (Ellie) Daniels, M.D., M.P.H., is the scientific program director for cancer control and prevention at the American Cancer Society national home office. In this role, she oversees grant management and research program development in the areas of cancer prevention and control, access to care, quality of care, cancer survivorship and cancer health equity. Additionally, she also oversees research peer review committees focusing on psychosocial and behavioral research, community based participatory research, health services and health policy research and palliative care and symptom management research.

Dr. Daniels is a family physician who completed medical school at Wayne State University and residency training at Eastern Virginia Medical School, Ghent Family Practice. She later completed a clinical research fellowship at the Medical University of South Carolina and Master of Public Health at Emory University Rollins School of Public Health. Dr. Daniels is a former federally-qualified health center medical director and women's wellness center director. During her tenure at the Morehouse School of Medicine, Dr. Daniels was the research director for the Southeast Regional Clinician's Network (SERCN) Practice Based Research Network (PBRN)-an all federally-qualified health center PRBN, co-leader for the Research Training and Career Development Core of the Morehouse School of Medicine, Tuskegee University, University of Alabama at Birmingham Cancer Partnership and a lead mentor for medical student learning communities.

Susan Eggly, Ph.D.



Biography

Susan Eggly, Ph.D., is a communication scientist and professor in the Population Studies and Disparities Program, Department of Oncology, Wayne State University/Karmanos Cancer Institute. Her research focuses on how patient-clinician communication affects patient outcomes in a variety of medical contexts, including cancer, primary care, end-of-life and pediatrics. She has conducted several communication interventions and has ongoing, NIH-funded research focused on clinical communication and outcomes related to clinical trials, health disparities and treatment decision-making.

Kristi Graves, Ph.D.



Biography

Dr. Graves received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and completed post-doctoral training at the University of Kentucky. She is a tenured associate professor of oncology in the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center at Georgetown University. Dr. Graves recently completed a research project funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to help Latina breast cancer patients and their caregivers improve their quality of life. This project was in collaboration with four community-based organizations, two of which are led by Latina cancer survivors. Dr. Graves also conducts research in the area of communicating genetic / genomic risk information about cancer risk and work focused on patient-reported outcomes. She is co-leading a current study to investigate symptoms experienced after radioactive iodine treatment among patients diagnosed with thyroid cancer. She is interested in behavioral and psychosocial patient-reported outcomes for people at risk for and surviving cancer and their caregivers.

Kevin McCaul, Ph.D.



Biography

Kevin D. McCaul, Ph.D., is professor and dean emeritus at North Dakota State University where he began his academic career in 1978 and retired in 2016. Dr. McCaul received a B.A. from Southern Methodist University and earned his Ph.D. in Social Psychology at the University of Kansas. Dr. McCaul's most recent research addressed relationships between cognitions, feelings and self-protective health behaviors. In particular, he has connected thoughts about risk and feelings about worry to better understand participation in breast cancer screening and motivation to quit smoking cigarettes. The latter research was supported by an NCI Senior Investigator Award. McCaul also served as chair of the Department of Psychology, in two interim dean roles in different colleges, and from 2006-2012 as dean of the College of Science and Mathematics.

Amy McQueen, Ph.D.



Biography

Amy McQueen, Ph.D., is an associate professor at Washington University School of Medicine and co-director of the Health Communication Research Lab in the School of Social Work. She has training in social psychology and public health. Her research integrates a focus on individual health behavior change with a population health approach to cancer prevention and control involving communities and healthcare systems. She examines internal and external barriers to recommended cancer screening tests and smoking cessation treatments, including risk perception, motivation, defenses, physician-patient communication and socioeconomic factors. Dr. McQueen's specific training and expertise in psychometrics and structural equation modeling supports her research interests in measurement development and evaluation, assessing the effects of interventions, and examining complex mediating and moderating pathways of influence involving psychological factors, health behaviors, and health outcomes.

Kurt Ribisl, Ph.D.



Biography

Kurt M. Ribisl, Ph.D., is professor in the Department of Health Behavior at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the program leader for Cancer Prevention and Control at UNC's Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Ribisl's primary research interest is evaluating and improving the reach of population-level efforts to reduce tobacco use, with a particular emphasis on policy and information technology. He specializes in studying policy issues related to the sales and marketing of tobacco products at the point of sale and on the Internet. He has researched tobacco product marketing, pricing, promotions, and youth access, as well as use of geographic information systems (GIS) in tobacco control. He has evaluated the impact of local, state, federal (e.g., Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act), and global policies related to the sales and marketing of tobacco products. Dr. Ribisl is the principal investigator of the \$19.4M Center for Regulatory Research in Tobacco Communication funded by the NIH Tobacco Centers of Regulatory Science (TCORS) program (RFA-DA-13-003). He is also a multi-principal investigator (with Drs. Lisa Henriksen and Doug Luke) of the NCI-funded grant, "Maximizing state & local policies to restrict tobacco marketing at point of sale" (1U01CA154281), which is collecting national data on tobacco product marketing, tobacco retailer density, and state tobacco control activities focused on the point of sale. He received his doctorate in community psychology from Michigan State University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in cardiovascular disease prevention and epidemiology at the Stanford Prevention Research Center, Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Ribisl is the author of over 150 scientific articles, and his research has been published in journals such as the American Journal of Public Health, Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), American Journal of Preventive Medicine, and Tobacco Control. He is the co-founder of Counter Tobacco, a point-of-sale resource (www.countertobacco.org), and of the nonprofit Counter Tools (www.countertools.org), which focuses on advancing place-based public health. He recently completed a term as a member of the congressionally mandated Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee (TPSAC) for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Tobacco Products.

Jim Thrasher, Ph.D.



Biography

Jim Thrasher, Ph.D., received his Ph.D. in Health Behavior from the University of North Carolina and is an associate professor in the Department of Health Promotion, Education & Behavior in the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina. For over a decade, he has been a researcher and visiting professor at the Mexican National Institute of Public Health, where much of his research is based. His research generally focuses on assessing the effects of media and policy interventions on nutrition- and smoking-related perceptions and behavior. A particular emphasis of this work involves assessing the consistency of media and policy effects across populations that differ in terms of sociocultural background and risk. He is the PI for the Mexico arm of the International Tobacco Control Policy Evaluation Project (ITC Project), which collects data from cohorts of smokers in over 20 low-, middle-, and high-income countries in order to assess tobacco control policy effects. Dr. Thrasher also conducts NIH-funded research to examine the psychosocial and behavioral effects of tobacco product warning labels, tobacco marketing, and entertainment media across countries. He has authored over 180 peer-reviewed articles; serves on numerous scientific, regulatory, editorial, and advocacy workgroups and committees; and often provides consultation to governments on tobacco policy and communications, including in his current role a voting member of the Food and Drug Administration's Tobacco Product Scientific Advisory Committee.