Epidemiology Faculty

Epidemiology & Biostatistics Department

Kacey Ernst, PhD, MPH
Program Director, Epidemiology
Associate Professor  |  kernst@email.arizona.edu
- How to enhance the engagement of communities in mosquito-borne disease prevention and control
- Examining the potential for climate change to alter the risk of Aedes-borne diseases in the U.S. - Mexico border region
- mHealth applications for community-based participatory surveillance

Heidi Brown, PhD, MPH
Associate Professor  |  heidibrown@email.arizona.edu
- Epidemiology and control of vector-borne and zoonotic diseases
- Identify human disease risk by modeling vector, host and pathogen distributions
- GIS, spatial statistics, computer-based modeling, remote sensing
- West Nile, dengue, canine heartworm, valley fever, spatial epidemiology, climate change

Zhao Chen, PhD, MPH
Professor & Department Chair, Epidemiology & Biostatistics  |  zchen@email.arizona.edu
- Women’s health and healthy aging
- Body composition assessments and risk predictions
- Epidemiology, prevention and management of osteoporosis, anemia, sarcopenia, obesity, and other musculoskeletal diseases
- Biomarker and genetic association research
- Global and ethnic health

Leslie Dennis, PhD, MS
Professor  |  ldennis@email.arizona.edu
- Melanoma and prostate cancer etiology & prevention as related to environmental risk
- Molecular analyses of trace elements (arsenic) and sexually transmitted infections
- Meta-analyses as related to risk factors for cancer
- Behavioral epidemiology
- Non-melanoma skin cancer etiology & prevention
Katherine Ellingson, PhD
Assistant Professor | kellingson@email.arizona.edu
- Healthcare-associated infections: epidemiology, surveillance & prevention
- Antibiotic stewardship in resource-limited healthcare settings
- Transmission of *Clostridium difficile* & multidrug-resistant organisms
- Outbreak investigation, policy evaluation & health services research

Leslie Farland, ScD, MSc
Assistant Professor | lfarland@email.arizona.edu
- Women’s reproductive health and chronic disease risk
- Etiology and risk factors for endometriosis, infertility, and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)
- Disparities in access to infertility care and fertility treatment utilization

Janet Foote, PhD
Assistant Professor | jfoote@email.arizona.edu
- Nutrition, dietary assessment, community & recreational sport
- Cancer prevention, detection, and education
- Member of the COM-Phx Biostatistical & Study Design support Services
- Team projects: homeless youth health, traumatic brain injury, and medical marijuana

Robin Harris, PhD, MPH
Professor | rbharris@email.arizona.edu
- Cancer epidemiology and cancer prevention
- Community-based epidemiological studies - ongoing studies in partnership with several Arizona tribes
- Focus in skin cancer epidemiology as Co-Director of Skin Cancer Institute
- Environmental epidemiological studies (with such exposures as arsenic, air quality, and Helicobacter pylori)

Elizabeth Jacobs, PhD
Professor | jacobse@email.arizona.edu
- Cancer epidemiology
- Genetic and lifestyle risk factors for colorectal cancer
- Relationships between vitamin D and cancer
- Vaccine exemptions
- Colorectal cancer screening

Yann Klimentidis, PhD, MS
Assistant Professor | yann@email.arizona.edu
- Genetics of cardiometabolic traits and diseases, health disparities
- Uses tools such as genetic admixture, genetic association, and gene*environment interactions to better understand etiology of disease and population differences in disease risk
Sydney Pettygrove, PhD
Associate Professor  |  sydneyp@email.arizona.edu
- Surveillance and epidemiology of birth defects and developmental disabilities
- Environmental epidemiology
- Co-Principal Investigator and Epidemiologist for the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program (ADDSP)

Kristen Pogreba-Brown, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor  |  kpogreba@email.arizona.edu
- One Health
- Food-borne illnesses and food safety
- Use of routine surveillance data to improve methods for disease detection
- Pandemic influenza preparedness and mass dispensing
- Development of real-time syndrome surveillance system for special events