

DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIOSTATISTICS

EPIBIO NEWS

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER SPRING 2026

LEAVING A LEGACY FOR FUTURE EPIDEMIOLOGISTS AND BIOSTATISTICIANS

[Dr. Nigel Paneth](#), founder of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, has graciously donated a significant collection of his epidemiology books, combining them with volumes owned by the department, and providing furniture and shelving to create a departmental library. Room 627 was renovated by the department to house the library and to serve as a reading room and meeting room for faculty and students.

The “**Paneth Epidemiology Library and Reading Room**” will comprise some 700 volumes on many topics in epidemiology and related disciplines. Older and more valuable books in Dr. Paneth’s collection will eventually be housed in the special collections area of the MSU library. The mission of the library is to make epidemiologic literature readily available to students and faculty. Many of the volumes are not easily accessible in print or on-line.

The library will also stand as a tribute to Dr. Paneth’s vision, dedication, and leadership, which established the foundation of our department. An [Open House](#) is scheduled for April 22 from 1-3 pm in the department lobby. Refreshments will be served.



INTRODUCING THE PANETH EPIDEMIOLOGY LIBRARY AND READING ROOM

OPEN HOUSE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 1-3 P.M.



epibio.msu.edu
epi.info@msu.edu



Research Day '26

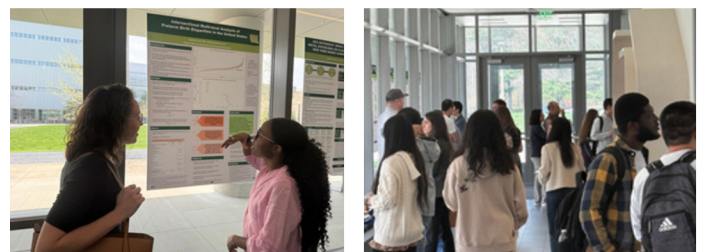
Friday, April 24 | ISTB

Research Day is an event designed by the department to showcase the research and outreach work being led by the department's faculty, students, and post-docs. The poster presentation represents an opportunity for post-docs, undergraduate, and graduate students to present their research and connect with colleagues. This event will provide a supportive environment to practice their presentation skills and build research collaborations across the department, college, and university.

[Learn More](#)

Congratulations

- Matt Myers, PhD in Epidemiology and former BEAMS President, will begin a post-doctoral research fellowship this June in the University of Michigan Department of Psychiatry NIAAA T32 training program. His mentors will be Drs. Sean McCabe and Megan Patrick.
- In March 2026, Professor Jim Anthony transitioned from President-Elect status to elected President of the American Psychopathological Association. The APPA recently held their annual meeting in [Boston](#).
- [Aswath Karai](#) is officially a Goldwater Scholar for his commitment to a research career in STEM. Karai is a student majoring in chemistry through NatSci, while minoring in the department's [Global Public Health and Epidemiology](#).

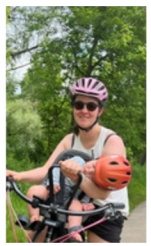


Donation to Support Research

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics is pleased to announce a generous \$2,000 donation from Kathy Fauth in support of departmental research. Fauth, who has a strong personal interest in addressing racial disparities in maternal care, directed her gift to help advance research efforts that improve health outcomes for mothers and families. The department extends its sincere appreciation to Kathy Fauth for her generosity and for championing research that aims to reduce disparities and improve maternal health for all communities. [Learn More](#)



SPOTLIGHT Faculty/Student



Dr. Ellie Holzhausen

My research is focused on understanding how the gut microbiome develops during early life, how early exposures influence gut microbiome development, and how this ultimately impacts child health.

✳️ [Get to know Dr. Holzhausen.](#)



Maxwell Mac-Ocloo

My interest in pursuing this degree (PhD Biostatistics) was inspired by my desire to use mathematics and statistics to answer important questions in health and medicine.

✳️ [Get to know Maxwell.](#)

Faculty Research Updates



Dr. Danielle Gartner - Wiba Anung translates to “early star” in Anishinaabemowin and is a partnership between Michigan State University and the Inter-tribal Council of Michigan (ITC-MI) that serves Michigan American Indian children and their families. Danielle is the co-PI for one of the grants that supports Wiba Anung. The current work seeks to understand how Indigenous cultural practices and language support children’s development. Specifically, the group is refining, and even creating new, culturally grounded measures to assess child development and wellbeing. Simultaneously, Wiba Anung members are building out an extensive Indigenous food sovereignty curriculum for use in Tribal early childhood education settings that will soon be assessed for its influence on children’s well-being. [Learn More](#)



Dr. Candice Johnson - In mid-February a study was launched to examine how recent changes at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), prompted by new governmental leadership, have influenced the agency’s public health functions and the well-being of its workforce. The study is a collaboration among researchers in the Departments of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Family Medicine, and Medicine, and is led by Dr. Candice Johnson. [Learn More](#)



Dr. Nicole Talge - Hearing tests administered to most newborn babies in Michigan could hold clues to which ones might later be diagnosed with neurodevelopmental conditions, such as autism spectrum disorder. [Learn More](#)



Dr. Kristen Upson - In addition to her research on environmental and gynecologic health, Dr. Kristen Upson is advising a research team of medical students in the College of Osteopathic Medicine. The research team is launching a study to understand the unmet needs of MSU graduate and professional degree students who menstruate ([see flyer](#)). Menstrual periods may pose an additional challenge on top of existing financial stressors and academic pressure for those pursuing graduate and professional degrees. [Learn More](#)



Adjunct Assistant Professor, Yasi Zamani-Hank, (PhD in Epidemiology 22) is the director of the MSU-Primary Care Research Collaborative (MSU-PCRC), a practice-based research network which recently launched the Research Training Fellowship Program to promote research capacity in primary care settings across Michigan. [Learn more](#)

• Spring 2026 Graduation

Congratulations to our incredible graduates on this remarkable achievement.



• Graduation Celebration

Friday, May 1, 12 p.m.
Central Conference Room,
Lobby

Join us as we congratulate and celebrate with our graduates on reaching this significant milestone. Lunch will be provided.



Spring 2026 Department Graduates



PhD in Biostatistics

- [Harold Wu](#)

PhD in Epidemiology

- [Norman Chamusah](#)
- [Ali Glazier-Essalmi](#)
- [Matt Myers](#)
- [Mounira Ozoor](#)
- [Bendu Sherman](#)

MS in Epidemiology

- [Bethany Khol](#)

Graduation Ceremonies

Friday, May 1 | Breslin Center
Masters 9 a.m. | Doctoral 2:30 p.m.





ALUMNI update

Samantha Bauer (PhD 2019) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences at Wayne State University. She serves as biostatistician on a variety of projects, including the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program which aims to improve primary care access in medically underserved and rural communities across Michigan. Dr. Bauer also collaborates with WSU's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences, where she integrates place-based and neighborhood-level factors into individual-level studies to strengthen inference and improve public health.

The most rewarding part of her role as faculty is mentoring and supporting MPH students through her teaching in biostatistics and health data analytics. Outside of work, she enjoys being a homebody – spending time with her two Pomeranians, Lisa Vanderpump and Bug, doing arts and crafts, and listening to Taylor Swift.

thanks
for your
support

STUDENT DEFENSES

Support a student by attending a defense.



Jazib Gohar
Do-PhD in Epidemiology '24

Rush University, located in Chicago's Illinois Medical District, is a private, top-ranked academic health institution renowned for nursing, medicine, and allied health programs. It specializes in research-driven, community-focused healthcare education.

UPCOMING CELEBRATIONS

GRADUATE STUDENT APPRECIATION WEEK

Wednesday, April 8, 9-12 p.m. Lobby
Please stop by. Refreshments will be provided.



STAFF APPRECIATION ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Tuesday, April 21, 2:30 p.m. West Conference Room
Stop by and thank our staff for all that they do in helping make the department run.



Website: epibio.msu.edu | Email: epi.info@msu.edu