

# epibio news

FALL 2023

DEPARTMENT of EPIDEMIOLOGY and BIOSTATISTICS

## OPEN HOUSE for prospective students

The department will host an open house for prospective students to learn more about our degree programs, hear from our admissions team about tips for navigating the application process, and connect with faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

Topics that will be covered:

- What do epidemiologists and biostatisticians do?
- Overview of MS & PhD graduate programs
- Faculty research activities
- Funding your graduate degree
- Admissions process
- Student & Alumni experiences



### When:

Friday  
November 3, 2023  
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

### Where:

A131 Fee Hall  
1st floor East Fee Hall

Lunch will be  
provided at 12:00 pm

[REGISTER HERE](#)

SEMINAR SERIES



### Schedule

- Topics of epidemiologic and biostatistical interests.
- Speakers include MSU faculty, public health professionals and guests from around the nation and world.

## \$2.3 million grant awarded



Assistant Professor. Dr. Kristen Upson, was awarded \$2.3 million from the NICHD, NIH for the study titled, "Contraceptive DMPA-induced bone loss: A novel source of toxic metal lead exposure in young women." The project started September 1, 2023 and goes until June 30, 2027.

RESEARCH



Dr. Nigel Paneth and Dr. Jean Kerver shared about their work with the ECHO/CHARM study at a recent Dean’s Town Hall. To learn more visit [here](#).

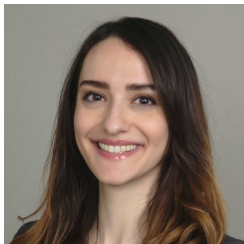
RO1 Award—Mat Reeves

Dr. Mat Reeves is a co-investigator on a new RO1 award with partners at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard University, and UCSF. The project is the culmination of several years of work collaborating with PI Dr. Kori Sauser on analyses of stroke systems of care using network analysis. The project uses statewide data from California to identify different hospital networks that collaborate to deliver acute stroke care within functional referral and transfer systems. Once the networks have been defined, the goals will be to examine how these networks affect disparities in access to acute stroke care within underserved and minority populations.

1 faculty, 3 students and a published paper



Claire Margerison



Yasi Zamani-Hank



Tim Michling



Katlyn Hettinger

A recent paper was published by Dr. Claire Margerison along with three of her students. PhD in Epidemiology graduate, Yasamean (Yasi) Zamani-Hank, recent PhD graduate 2022, Katlyn Hettinger, who worked with Dr. Claire Margerison and 2nd year PhD in Epidemiology student Tim Michling.

Article: [Association of the 2021 Child Tax Credit Advance Payments With Low Birth Weight in the US](#)



Margerison CE, Zamani-Hank Y, Catalano R, Hettinger K, Michling TR, Bruckner TA. Association of the 2021 Child Tax Credit Advance Payments With Low Birth Weight in the US. JAMA Netw Open. 2023 Aug 1;6(8):e2327493. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.27493. PMID: 37556140; PMCID: PMC10413172.



\$26M ECHO-2 Funding

Dr. Jean Kerver received funding to continue the NIH funded study of environmental impacts on children’s health. The project includes long-time collaborative partners at the University of Michigan, Wayne State University, Henry Ford Health and the MDHHS and will bring \$26M in research funding to the state of Michigan over the next 7 years. Learn more at [charmstudy.org](http://charmstudy.org)



Jazib  
Gohar  
in  
Berlin

## Running for a cause

Jazib Gohar is a 4th year DO-PhD candidate in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, as well as, the College of Osteopathic Medicine. When Jazib isn't in class or working on research, he is running marathons. In September, Jazib ran the Berlin Marathon for the American Cancer Society and is planning to run in the Chicago Marathon for ACS (Acute Coronary Syndrome) on Sunday, October 8.



## BEAMS IS LOOKING FOR YOU

BEAMS is looking for an additional student to join the executive board for the year! Anyone who enjoys planning events, connecting with their peers, or making the student voice heard in the department is encouraged to reach out to BEAMS about the position. Contact Claire Schertzing [epi.beams@msu.edu](mailto:epi.beams@msu.edu) for more information.

## RO1 Award—Dawn Misra

Dr. Dawn Misra is a co-I on a new RO1 award. New research has emerged to measure your “biological” age in contrast to your chronological age to determine if you are experiencing accelerated aging. Using data collected in the BIBB study of pregnant Black women from Michigan, Ohio and Florida, Dr. Misra states, “we are calculating maternal age acceleration and are using multiple methods with the epigenome, including one never used in pregnancy before. The big question will be whether women with accelerated aging are more likely to have a preterm birth. We will also examine what social factors, including racism, stress, and neighborhood environment, may accelerate aging. Identifying women early in pregnancy with this marker could be a first step towards prevention of preterm birth.”

## Co-Investigator NCI – funded supplemental award—Kelly Hirko

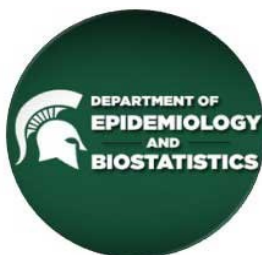
Dr. Kelly Hirko is a co-I on an NCI-funded supplemental award for a clinical trial testing a mobile app designed to assist high risk individuals in attaining diet quality goals for colorectal cancer prevention. The grant PIs are Zora Djuric, PhD and Lorraine Buis, PhD, from the University of Michigan.

For the supplemental award, Dr. Hirko will work with the study team to develop and implement video education tools and personal technology assistants to address digital literacy barriers and promote equitable recruitment and retention of study participants.



- For our Alumni -

If you have recently graduated or graduated ten years ago we would love to hear from you. Please [email us](#) and let us know where you are and what you are currently doing.



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### Dr. Jim Anthony

“Volunteering to help others, chatting with my older relatives and friends, playing with grandkids and family, swimming, listening to podcasts about history and politics (often while I swim), watching sports and old movies, daily tending of my hydroponic lettuce and herbs.”

### Dr. David Barondess

“Hiking, gardening, swimming, and a fall Saturday routine of visiting the Meridian Farmer’s Market, apple picking and assembling pies!”

### Dr. Honglei Chen

“Playing badminton, soccer, biking, and doing my yardwork.”

### Dr. Jean Kerver

“Host visitors—my husband and I have lots of friends and a big family. I’m #8 out of 9 kids!”

### Dr. Zhehui Luo

“Playing with my dog while listening to audio books.”

### Dr. Claire Margerison

“I enjoy running, kayaking, camping, playing the violin, and hanging out with my kids and our dog”

### Dr. Dawn Misra

“Rowing on the Detroit River, ice skating, reading cookbooks, and listening to jazz”

### Dr. Nicole Talge

“I like to spend time with my family and my dogs. I also like to travel and recently kayaked for the first time. I loved it!”