disseminate the global health research, education, and outreach of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

David Fuente, PhD, Assistant Professor, Earth Ocean and Environment, College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Spotlight

Environmental Science before pursuing my PhD. Interspersed with



Tell us a bit about yourself, your career, and how it led you to UofSC. I'm currently an Assistant Professor in the School of the Earth, Ocean and Environment who studies global water issues. I have taken a fairly non-linear path to my current role at UofSC. I studied Geology as an undergraduate and went on to earn master's degrees in Philanthropic Studies, Public Affairs, and

these degrees, I have had several opportunities to work in the field. Early in my career I spent a year working with Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), India's largest union of women workers, as an American India Foundation Clinton Fellow. This was my on-the-ground introduction to the world of international development and really cemented my interest in pursuing a career that brought both the physical and social sciences to bear on pressing global challenges. This led me to pursue Masters degrees in Public Affairs and Environmental Science. Later in my career, I had the opportunity to lead a research group at a think tank in South India focused on infrastructure finance, social enterprise, and infrastructure governance. This experience ultimately led to me returning to graduate school to pursue my PhD. Prior to joining UofSC in 2017, I was a Lead Scientist at the Water Institute at UNC's Gillings School of Global Public Health, where I led the Institute's programs on governance and climate change. How would you describe your current global health research? My research focuses on the challenge of providing water and sanitation services in low-income settings, which often face the

and climate change. I describe my research as problem-based and action-oriented. I begin by identifying a particular water-related problem and then use quantitative research methods to 1) advance scholarly debates related to the problem and 2) identify, design, and test potential solutions to it. Much of my work sits at the intersection of the public (government) and private (household) spheres, so my work often integrates secondary data collected by public entities (water utilities, national regulators, etc.) and primary data I collect from households through surveys. Much of my current work is in East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia) but I've worked in South Asia (India) and the Middle East (Egypt) in the past. For the past five years I've also been working on access to water and sanitation services among Alaska Native communities and am now starting to examine access to safe water

and sanitation services here in South Carolina.



water and sanitation service pricing and the design of subsidy programs. I've also worked with the World Health Organization on climate-resilient service delivery and the link between water quantity (use) and health. I'm currently working on a proposal with colleagues at Emory on indoor air pollution and clean cooking technologies in Cambodia. I used to work in this space in 2008-10, so it's been fun to re-engage with this global health challenge. What advice would you give to current students interested in your field? I'd give students three pieces of advice. First, be curious and

problems for several decades. Spend time learning about what people have done in the past and don't be afraid to question long standing assumptions. Second, try to get experiences "in the field" and spend time talking to policymakers and service providers. Finally, focus on developing a core set of skills that align with your

interests. This could be anything from statistics and spatial

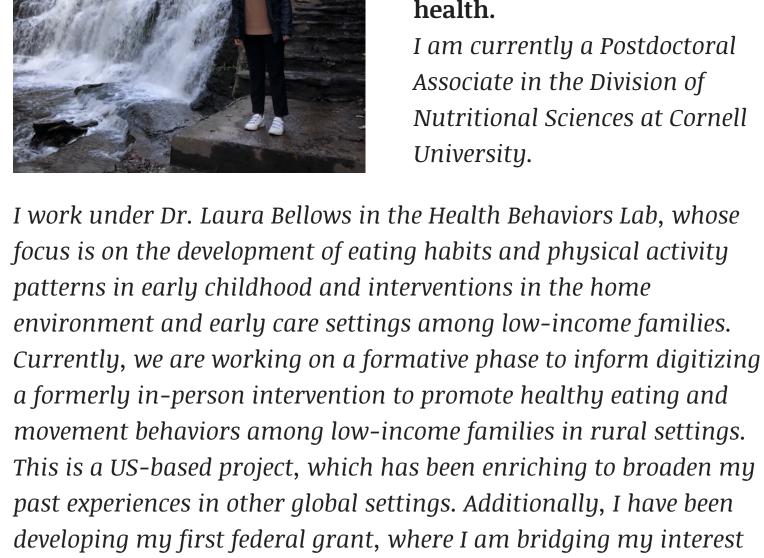
modeling to fundraising, communications, and public relations. A

lot of people are interested in careers in international development

industrious. Smart people have been working on global health

and global health but you need to be able to bring concrete skills to the table to land exciting opportunities in the field. Any additional thoughts you would like to share. When I started working on global water issues over 20 years ago, I did so hoping that I'd learn about innovative approaches countries are taking to address complicated environmental health problems that could eventually be relevant to the US. There are many parallels between problems we face at home and environmental and global health problems in low- and middle-income. It's just a matter of scale and scope. With ageing infrastructure, climate change, and increasing inequality, these problems are becoming more acute here in the United States and we have a lot to learn to from advances

happening across the globe. Alumni Spotlight Ligia Reyes, PhD, Postdoctoral Associate, Division of Nutritional Sciences, Cornell University What degree did you receive from UofSC? Ph.D. in Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior



Any additional thoughts.

reach out!

University. I work under Dr. Laura Bellows in the Health Behaviors Lab, whose focus is on the development of eating habits and physical activity

Tell us a little bit about your

current position and what

you do in the field of global

I am currently a Postdoctoral

health.

methodological skills. How did your time at UofSC prepare you for the career path you are on now? As a foundation, I was given the space and encouraged to ask critical questions that may not have simple or linear answers. This was key to identifying my dissertation focus, i.e., how social networks and food environments shape food choice, then working with my mentor, Dr. Edward Frongillo, on how to make that happen. I spent almost 10 years in schools of public health, UofSC and the University of Michigan prior to that, and it became second nature to consistently think of implications beyond the specific findings of our

What do you recommend to current students at UofSC that are interested in global health? Approach people. Reach out to faculty, postdocs, staff, and students from research groups you might be interested in. Find out what motivates them, why they do what they do, and whether that is something that excites you too; know what you want out of a meeting. I had exceptional experiences at UofSC ranging from the highest of calibers in mentorship to tangible opportunities, along with near and dear friendships in the process, but it all takes

Highlighting Global Health Work at UofSC As we continue to build our semester newsletters, it would be helpful to get your suggestions on individuals (faculty, staff, students, or alumni) that we should highlight. If you know of anyone at UofSC or affiliated with UofSC who is currently doing global health work that you recommend we reach out to, please email emkenney@email.sc.edu.

South Carolina, El Salvador, Colombia, and Brazil. This presentation will describe the overlapping similarities, yet distinctions, between her multiple study sites' investigations on Chagas disease and Spotted Fever Group Rickettsioses. This presentation will have appeal to anyone interested in health

disparities, field epidemiology and/or vector-borne diseases. The

presentation will take place Friday, September 9th, from 2:00-

Dr. Melissa Nolan is a clinical epidemiologist with study sites in

Uf Arnold School of SC. Public Health Each year, the ASPH enrolls around 100 international students who have diverse backgrounds, varied experiences, and come from a variety of countries. The International Student and Global Health Forum is a place for students to present their international interests and expertise in global health. The forum presentations will take place on the following dates: September 23rd, October 21st, and November 18th, from 12:00-1:00PM in Discovery 331. We want to hear from you! We are seeking international students who will volunteer to make 15–20-minute presentations on a brief history and structure of the health sector, the public health improvements and challenges of their home country. Please email

Victoria Adebiyi (<u>vadebiyi@email.sc.edu</u>) if you are interested in

on events, opportunities, and more.

presenting. Also, join the Global Health Student listserv for updates

Join the Student Listserv

Recent Publications

Bhandari S, Frongillo EA, Suwal R, Schreinemachers P, Gupta AS, Blake CE, Tiwari NP, Cunningham K. Sustaining agriculture and nutrition interventions:

Cho, YJ, Thrasher, JF, Gravely, S, Alberg, A, Borland, R, Yong, H-H, et al. Adult

smokers' discussions about vaping with health professionals and subsequent

behavior change: a cohort study. Addiction. 2022. https://doi.org/10.1111/add.15994

Dye-Braumuller KC, Rodríguez Aquino MS, Self SCW, Kanyangarara M, Nolan

MS. Spotted Fever Group Rickettsioses in Central America: The Research and

Public Health Disparity among Socioeconomic Lines. Insects. 2022, 13, 674.

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de Novaes JF. 2022. Interaction effect between breakfast skipping and sedentary behavior in the dietary inflammatory potential of Brazilian school-age children. Nutrition. 102, 111749. Wrottesley SV, Shivappa N, Prioreschi A, **Hebert JR**, et al. Anti-inflammatory diets reduce the risk of excessive gestational weight gain in urban South Africans from

the Soweto First 1000-Day Study (S1000). Eur J Nutr (2022).

Zidovudine Concentrations Predict Virologic Outcomes Among People Living with HIV/AIDS in China. Patient Prefer Adherence. 2022;16:1885-1896 https://doi.org/10.2147/PPA.S371623 Ye Z, Zeng C, Yang X, Tam CC, Wang Y, Qiao S, Li X, Lin D. 2022. COVID-19related stressful experiences and posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms among

college students in China: A moderated mediation model of perceived control over

Yelverton V, Hair NL, Ghosh SH, Mfinanga SG, Ngadaya E, Baumgartner JN, Ostermann J, Vasudevan L. Beyond coverage: Rural-urban disparities in the timeliness of childhood vaccinations in Tanzania. Vaccine (2022). doi: 10.1016/j.vaccine.2022.07.020

combined pressures of rapid urbanization, increasing inequality,

What other global health activities are you involved in?

There can be a stark divide between research and practice. Thus, in

addition to my scholarly work, I spend a good bit of time engaging

with local policymakers and service providers to try to ensure that

that they are aware of recent (and past) advances in research. At

the global level, I've recently worked with the World Bank and the

my research is responsive to challenges they face on the ground and

United States Millennium Challenge Corporation on best practices in

Associate in the Division of Nutritional Sciences at Cornell

a formerly in-person intervention to promote healthy eating and movement behaviors among low-income families in rural settings. This is a US-based project, which has been enriching to broaden my past experiences in other global settings. Additionally, I have been developing my first federal grant, where I am bridging my interest in food choice with diet assessment, and diversifying my

studies. I have been learning that is not necessarily the norm in other disciplines, and it can render such depth to teams already doing excellent work. initiative. At the same time, I recognize it can be intimidating. We are people just like you, we just have been doing this for longer, and most of us are eager to say hello.

Remember that global health truly means global, and it is

encompassing of both international and domestic efforts and a

in certain settings or topics, you will be trained on it. Feel free to

breadth of topics. It is okay that your experience may not already be

Upcoming Global Health Events THE ARNOLD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVE **PRESENTS**

AMERICAN VECTOR-BORNE

AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH

SEPTEMBER 9, 2022 | 2:00-3:00PM | DISC 140

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Melissa Nolan, PhD

Scan QR code for Zoom link

3:00PM in Discovery Room 140.

DISEASES: PARALLEL SYSTEMS

BETWEEN THE AMERICAN SOUTH

Arnold School of Public Health

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND GLOBAL HEALTH FORUM SAVE THE DATES:

SEPTEMBER 23, 2022 OCTOBER 21, 2022 NOVEMBER 18, 2022

TIME: 12:00-1:00PM **LOCATION: DISCOVERY ROOM 331**

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Lu J-fR, Chen YI, Eggleston K, Chen C-H, Chen B. Assessing Taiwan's pay-forperformance program for diabetes care: a cost-benefit net value approach. Eur J

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Kenya. Current Developments in Nutrition, 2022;

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- the future and empathy. Journal of Pacific Rim Psychology. doi: 10.1177/18344909221119830
- Faculty Directory update we've recently updated our Global Health Faculty <u>Directory</u>. If you would like to be included in the directory, please

West Indies

email emkenney@email.sc.edu.

Help us showcase your work! If you would like to be featured in the next

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publications, presentations, awards, grants and any other accomplishments.

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