

WURA JACOBS

Assistant Professor
Department of Health Science
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Fullerton, California
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EDUCATION

PhD, *Health Education (Health Promotion)*, 2015

Department of Health and Kinesiology, Texas A&M University

- Fellow, Academy of Future Faculty
- Dissertation: Types and Gender Composition of Social Networks: Their Influence on Adolescent Substance Use
Committee: E. Lisako J. McKyer, PhD. (chair), Patricia Goodson, PhD (co-chair), Kenneth McLeroy, PhD (member), Peter Murano, PhD (member)

MS, *Science and Technology Journalism*, 2011

Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences, Texas A&M University

- Advisor: Barbara Gastel, M.D., MPH

B. Tech, *Biochemistry*, 2007

Department of Biochemistry, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Nigeria

- Thesis: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Various Processing Methods in Reducing Cyanide Content in Cassava Flakes (*Garri*)
Advisor: Mr. Okwonkwo, MA
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SUMMARY OF RESEARCH SKILLS

Grant and proposal writing • Research methodology & design • Institutional Review Board clearance • Participant recruitment • Data collection • Data management • Statistical analysis (SPSS, STATA, R, Mplus, NVivo, UCINET, E-Net, NETDRAW) • Online survey design and programming (Qualtrics, Survey Monkey)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social Network Analysis; Social Support; Social Capital; Child and Adolescent Health Behaviors & Outcomes— substance use, nutrition, obesity, physical activity; Minority Health; Family Health History; Health Communication; Quantitative Research Methods

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Department of Health and Kinesiology, Texas A&M University

2014 – Present

Postdoctoral Research Assistant (Mentor: Dr. Adam E. Barry)

- Conducting research on adolescent social networks and their substance use behavior
- Guiding and mentoring students in preparing manuscripts and abstracts for journals and conferences

Transdisciplinary Center for Health Equity Research (TCHER)

2012 – 2014

Department of Health and Kinesiology, Texas A&M University

Graduate Research Assistant

- Conducted data analysis and interpretation for dissemination purposes

- Mentored undergraduate students on research projects, poster presentations, and research papers.

Institute for Obesity Research and Program Evaluation 2011 – 2012
Texas A&M University AgriLIFE Research
Graduate Research Assistant

- Supervised on-site data collection in schools
- Prepared quarterly report (for the Texas Food and Nutrition Project) for funding agencies
- Participated in grant application meetings and writing

Oyo State (Nigeria) Needs Assessment Project 2007
 A State –Funded Community-based Participatory Research Project
Facilitator

- Provided support for the project
- Assisted in coordinating interviews across 33 local government districts in the state
- Assisted in collating and documenting findings from all town hall meetings

Nigeria Institute of Medical Research, Human Virology Laboratory 2006
 A Ford Foundation and PEPFAR funded research laboratory
Intern Researcher

- Worked as bench scientist in charge of assessing patients’ clinical biomarkers
- Conducted DNA extraction using Polymerase Chain Reaction Method, triglyceride analysis, RNA extraction and quantification
- Collected data and worked as health educator counseled patients on dietary habits and its implication on biomarkers

TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Department of Health and Kinesiology, Texas A&M University 2016 – Present
Instructional Assistant Professor

HLTH 335 – Human Diseases, HLTH 342 – Human Sexuality

- Teach course using Blackboard and Moodle platforms
- Evaluate students by providing feedback and grades for assignments

Department of Health and Kinesiology, Texas A&M University 2012 – 2015
Graduate Teaching Assistant

HLTH 334-598, 599 Women’s Health

- Assisted in the redesign and development of course content and assignments
- Managed and facilitated the course (using Blackboard and Moodle platforms)
- Evaluated students by providing feedback and grades for assignments
- Taught the class online to about 300 students every semester
- Regularly guest-lectured the in-class version of the course

Promoting Outstanding Writing for Excellence in Research (P. O. W. E. R.) 2010 – 2014
Texas A&M University

Writing Consultant

- Provided support for students in their writing for publication, term papers, or scholarships
- Coordinated writing groups for graduate students needing writing support

Department of Petroleum Engineering, Texas A&M University 2009 – 2012
Graduate Teaching Assistant

PETE 335, 435, 635 Technical Presentations for Sophomores, Seniors, and Graduate Students

- Taught two, one-hour classes per semester
- Graded and managed the course with over 150 students per semester

- Evaluated students by providing feedback and grades for written assignments
- Used Blackboard to facilitate the course

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- News and Information Services, Texas A& M University** 2007
Science Writer, Intern (one semester)
- Interviewed faculty members and wrote biographical sketches
 - Fact-checking and proofreading of articles and news releases

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Texas Public Health Association, *Thinking Progressively for Health Award* 2014
- Competitive Travel Scholarship, College of Education and Human Development, Texas A&M University Amount: \$500.00 2014
- Competitive Travel Scholarship, Department of Health and Kinesiology, Texas A&M University Amount: \$730.00 2014
- Competitive Graduate Student Research Grant, Office of Graduate and Professional Students, Texas A&M University Amount: \$500.00 2014
- Competitive Travel Scholarship, College of Education and Human Development Texas A&M University Amount: \$500.00 2013
- Competitive Travel Scholarship, Department of Health and Kinesiology, Texas A&M University Amount: \$500.00 2013
- Gamma Sigma Delta Honors (for academic excellence) 2012
- Intercollegiate Faculty of Nutrition Scholarship, Texas A& M University, Amount: \$1,000.00 2011

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. Lu, W., **Jacobs, W.**, McKyer, E. Lisako J. (2014). Risk Factors for Overweight and Obesity Among Chinese American Children—A Systematic Review of Literature. *Journal of Health Behavior and Public Health*, 4(1), 29-36.
2. Amuta, A., **Jacobs, W.**, Idoko, E., Barry, A., McKyer, E. Lisako J., McWhinney, S. (2015). Influence of the Home Food Environment on Children’s Fruit and Vegetable Consumption: A study of Rural Low-Income Families. *Health Promotion Practice*, 16(5), 689-698.
3. **Jacobs, W.**, Jeon, K., Goodson, P., Valente, T. W. (2015). What’s Love Got to Do With It? Adolescent Romantic Attractions and Substance Use. *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth*. 1–9. DOI:10.1080/02673843.2015.1122643.
4. **Jacobs, W.**, Goodson P, Barry AE, McLeroy KR. (2016). The role of gender in adolescents’ social networks and alcohol, tobacco, and drug use: a systematic review. *Journal of School Health*. 86: 322-333.
5. **Jacobs, W.**, Barry, A., Valente, T. W. (2016). Hispanic/Latino Adolescents’ Alcohol Use: Influence of Family Structure, Perceived Peer Norms, and Family Members’ Alcohol Use. *Journal: American Journal of Health Education*. 47(4), 253-261.
6. Amuta, A., **Jacobs, W.** Barry, A., Crosslin, K. Popoola, O. (2016). Gender Differences in Type 2 Diabetes Risk Perception, Attitudes and Protective Health Behaviors: A study of Overweight and Obese College Students. *Journal: American Journal of Health Education*. (in press).

7. Amuta, A., **Jacobs, W.**, Barry, A., McKyer, E. Lisako J. (2016). Peer Influence on Physical Activity Behaviors among Overweight and Obese Adolescents with and without a Family History of Type 2 Diabetes. Journal: *Health Communication*. (in press)
8. Amuta, A., **Jacobs, W.**, Idoko, E., Barry, A., McKyer, E. Lisako J., McWhinney, S. (2016). Influence of Parent-Child Joint Decision Making on Children's Fruit and Vegetable Consumption. Journal: *Journal of Health Behavior and Public Health*. (in press)

Under Review

9. **Jacobs, W.**, Goodson, P., Barry, A., McLeroy, K., McKyer, E. L. J., Valente, T. W. Adolescent Social Networks and Alcohol Use: Variability by Gender and Network Type. Journal: *Substance Use and Misuse*. Revised and Resubmitted
10. **Jacobs, W.**, Goodson, P., Barry, A., McLeroy, K., McKyer, E. L. J., Valente, T. W. The Role of Gender in Adolescents' Social Networks and Tobacco use. Journal: *SAGE Open*. Revised and Resubmitted

In Preparation

11. Cisse-Egbunoye, N., **Jacobs, W.**, Olusanya, O., Mkuu, R. Tackling High Fertility in Niger and Nigeria through the Behavioral Ecological Model. Target Journal: *Population and Development Review*.
12. **Jacobs, W.**, Amuta, A., Jeon, K.C. Health Information Seeking in the Digital Age: A Four-Year Trend Analysis of Health Information Seeking Behavior Among US Adults. Target Journal: *Health Communication*
13. **Jacobs, W.**, Xu, L., Amuta, A. Gender Differences in Correlates of Family Health History Discussions Among College Students and Healthcare Providers. Target Journal: *Health Promotion Practice*.
14. Xu, L., **Jacobs, W.**, Mitchell, L., Richman, A. Assessing Young Adults Perceptions and Attitudes Towards Talking about Their Family Health History- A Qualitative Pilot Study. Target Journal: *Health Promotion Practice*.
15. **Jacobs, W.**, Olusanya, O., Xu, L., Goodson, P. Long-term HAART Use and Quality of Life Experiences: A Systematic Review of Literature. Target Journal: *SAGE Open*.

Book Review

16. **Jacobs, W.** SWITCH: How to Change Things When Change is Hard. [Review of Book]. *Science Editor*. April – June 2013 (36) p61.
17. **Jacobs W.** Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life. [Review of Book]. *Science Editor*. July – September 2011 (34) 3 p99.

Technical Reports

18. **Aribisala, W.** Can Non-Native English-Speaking Editors be Effective Editors of English-Language Writing? *Science Editor* Jan – Mar 2012 34(1) p13
19. **Aribisala, W.** Experiences From the Developing World—International Scholarship Recipients. *Science Editor*, Sept – Oct 2011 33(5) p155
20. **Aribisala, W.** Hot Topics and Cool Collaborations: Special Issues and Collaborative Publishing. *Science Editor*, Sept – Oct 2011 33(5) p157

21. **Aribisala, W.** The 2010 CSE International Scholarship Recipients. *Science Editor*, Sept – Oct 2011 33(5) pp169-171
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PEER REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS: ORAL

1. **Jacobs, W.**, Szucs, L., Goodson, P. & Barry, A.E., Valente, T. Gender Composition of Adolescents Friendship Networks and its Influence on Substance Use. Oral presentation at the American School Health Association Annual Conference 2015, Orlando, FL. October 15 -17, 2015.
2. Xu, L., Mitchell, L., Richman, A., **Jacobs, W.** What are Parents' Emotional Responses to Chromosomal Microarray Genetic Testing? – A Qualitative Pilot Study among Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. 143rd APHA Annual Meeting and Exposition. Chicago, Illinois. October 31 - November 4, 2015.
3. McDonald, A., **Jacobs W.**, & McKyer, E. L. J. Stakeholders' Perception of Factors Impeding the Transformation of Schools to a Healthy School Environment. Oral presentation at SOPHE 2013 Annual meeting, Orlando, FL.
4. Guerrero, J., **Aribisala, W.**, Gastmyer, C., Day, C., Kwiatkowski, C., Qamar, Z., Sherman, L., Misra, R. Are Consumers Engaging in Protective Behaviors against Medication Errors? A paper presented at the 139th APHA Annual Meeting and Exposition. Washington DC, October 29 – Nov 2, 2011

PEER REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS: POSTER

5. **Jacobs, W.**, Amuta, A. Health Information Seeking in the Digital Age: Is the Web Creating Health Inequalities? Accepted for presentation at 15th Annual American Academy of Health Behavior Meeting. Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, February 21-24, 2016.
6. **Jacobs, W.**, Amuta, A. Determinants of Health Information Seeking using the Internet, Traditional Media, or Healthcare Professional: Results from a U.S. representative. Accepted for presentation at 15th Annual American Academy of Health Behavior Meeting. Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, February 21-24, 2016.
7. Amuta, A., **Jacobs, W.**, Barry, A. Adolescents at High Risk for Type 2 Diabetes: Examining the Impact of Family, Healthcare Professionals and Peer Advice on Engaging in Physical Activity. Accepted for presentation at 15th Annual American Academy of Health Behavior Meeting. Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, February 21-24, 2016.
8. Amuta, A., **Jacobs, W.**, Barry, A. Type 2 Diabetes Family History and its Influence on Physical Activity Behavior among Adolescents: A structural Equation Model Analysis. Accepted for presentation at 15th Annual American Academy of Health Behavior Meeting. Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, February 21-24, 2016.
9. Amuta, A., **Jacobs, W.**, Guerrero, J., Talwar, D., Barry, A. Associations between Perceptions of Cancer Risk, Cancer Family History and Health Protective Behaviors: Results from the Health Information National Trends Survey. Accepted for presentation at 15th Annual American Academy of Health Behavior Meeting. Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, February 21-24, 2016.
10. **Jacobs, W.**, Jeon, K.C., Barry, A., Valente, T. Adolescents' Social Networks and Family Characteristics: Association with Alcohol Use. Submitted for presentation at SOPHE 67th Annual Meeting. Charlotte, NC. March 30 – April 1, 2016.

11. **Jacobs, W.**, Jeon, K.C., Barry, A., Valente, T. “Things we do for Love”: Adolescent Romantic Attractions and Substance Use. Submitted for presentation at SOPHE 67th Annual Meeting. Charlotte, NC. March 30 – April 1, 2016
12. **Jacobs, W.**, Jeon, K.C., Barry, A., Valente, T. Perception of Alcohol use Prevalence, Peer Factors, Family Characteristics, and Adolescent Alcohol Use. Submitted for presentation at SOPHE 67th Annual Meeting. Charlotte, NC. March 30 – April 1, 2016
13. Xu, L., Mitchell, L., Richman, A., **Jacobs, W.** Are Young Adults Talking about Their Family Health History? - A Qualitative Pilot Study? 143rd APHA Annual Meeting and Exposition. Chicago, Illinois. October 31 - November 4, 2015.
14. Xu, L., Mitchell, L., Richman, A., **Jacobs, W.** Are Parents Ready for Chromosomal Microarray Genetic Testing of Their Children? – A Qualitative Report from Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Rural Settings. 143rd APHA Annual Meeting and Exposition. Chicago, Illinois. October 31 - November 4, 2015.
15. Amuta, A., **Jacobs, W.**, Andrea M., Zhu, L., Lu W., Odum, M., McKyer, E. L. J., McWhinney, S., Tisone, C., Outley, C., Dawkins-Moultin, L. The Home Food Environment and Children’s Fruit and Vegetable Consumption: A study of Rural Families. 14th Annual American Academy of Health Behavior Meeting. San Antonio, Texas, March 15-18, 2015.
16. Cisse, N., **Jacobs, W.**, Olusanya, O. Where Do Babies Come From? An Examination of Societal Factors and Fertility Rates in Niger and Nigeria. Abstract accepted for presentation at the SOPHE 65th Annual meeting. Baltimore, Maryland, March 19-21, 2014.
17. McDonald, A., **Jacobs, W.**, Dawkins-Moultin, L., Chen, X., McKyer, E. L. J., Tisone, C., Outley, C. Teachers’ Perceived Barriers of Factors Impeding the Effectiveness and Sustainance of the School Wellness Policy. Abstract accepted for presentation at the Texas Public Health Association 90th Annual Education Conference. Corpus Christi, Texas, March 24-26, 2014.
18. **Jacobs, W.**, McDonald, A., Zhu, L., Lu W., Odum, M., McKyer, E. L. J., McWhinney, S., Tisone, C., Outley, C., Dawkins-Moultin, L. Parents’ Level of Education and Perception of Satisfaction with Food Options Available in the Schools. Abstract presented at the 13th Annual American Academy of Health Behavior Meeting. Santa Fe, New Mexico, March 17-20, 2013.
19. **Jacobs, W.**, Goodson, P. What are HIV positive persons, who have been on HAART for a long period, experiencing in terms of consequences-A systematic literature review. Abstract Presented at The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Annual Meeting. Tampa, FL. November 10, 2012.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/CERTIFICATIONS

- Fellow, Academy for Future Faculty, Texas A&M University 2015
- Social Network Analysis, LINKS Center, University of Kentucky 2012
- Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) 2013

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Texas Public Health Association (TPHA)
- American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
- Diaspora Health Literacy Advocacy Team & Global Collaborators for AFRICA (DHLAT)
- Text and Academic Authors Association (TAA)

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- Grant Reviewer, 3E's Grant programs, Texas Department of Agriculture
- Judge and Presenter, Student Research Week, Texas A&M University