

Health Promotion Matters

Newsletter of the Health Promotion Research Center

SEPTEMBER 2025



Samira Farah Leads with Faith and Community

Samira Farah, MPH'25, worked with Neighborhood House and HPRC to adapt and expand mental health programming for Somali communities. [Learn about the project](#)

Delta Dental of WA & HPRC Advance Dental Career Equity

DDWA and HPRC have launched an implementation guide to help the Dental Discovery program improve opportunities for underrepresented youth. [Learn more](#)



Hannon Receives Harris-Wasserheit Endowed Professorship

HPRC Director, Dr. Peggy Hannon, is the inaugural recipient of the Harris-Wasserheit Endowed Professorship, made possible by Dr. Jeff Harris and Dr. Judy Wasserheit. [Read more](#)



Celebrating Our Class of '25 Students

Thank you to all of our graduating students who have supported our research teams and played key roles in advancing health equity. [Read the student spotlight](#)



Andy Hill Care Fund Expands Connect to Wellness™ in WA

HPRC received funding from the Andy Hill CARE Fund to expand Connect to Wellness™, bringing evidence-based employee wellness programs to small businesses across Washington. [Learn about the project](#)



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Manual Highlighted by NIA

HPRC team members led the creation of the Community Advisory Board Membership Manual with [UW ADRC](#), now featured in the National Institute on Aging's ADORE repository to strengthen inclusion in Alzheimer's and dementia research.

[ACCESS THE MANUAL](#)



Team Updates

CONGRATS

- **Sarah Knerr**, was honored with a faculty promotion to Associate Professor in the Department of Health Systems and Population Health (HSPop). Congratulations, Sarah, on this exciting milestone!
- **Katherine Lopez**, research coordinator supporting work with the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Outreach, Recruitment and Engagement Core (ADRC ORE CORE) and PEARLS at HPRC has been accepted into the HSPop MPH Program. Congratulations Katherine!

WELCOME

- **Evelyn Grijalva Martinez**, who joined HPRC as an MPH student in January 2024, is transitioning to research coordinator supporting Nuestro Valor and the FRESH Study under the direction of Dr. Barbara Baquero and KeliAnne Hara-Hubbard.

FAREWELL

- **Kimiko Oshima**, graduate research assistant supporting cancer prevention and control projects under the direction of Thuy Vu and Peggy Hannon, departed HPRC in June after obtaining her MPH from HSPop. Congratulations Kimiko!
- **Janet Rojina**, research coordinator supporting ROSSEY, ADRC ORE Core, Implementation Studio, under the direction of Sonia Bishop departed HPRC in August to pursue employment with Seattle Children's Hospital. Best of luck, Janet!
- **Anya Quig**, graduate research assistant supporting NCOA EPB Review (previously Mobile Crisis Response), under the direction of Marlana Kohn, graduated with her MPH in Epidemiology. Congratulations Anya!

- **Leah Westra**, Deputy Director for the Health Promotion Research Center, has transitioned to the Director of Business Management and Strategy within the Department of Health Systems and Population Health. Congratulations on this new role!
- **Jeff Harris**, long-standing Investigator within HPRC and previous Director, has retired as of June. We thank Jeff for his many years of leadership and dedication, wishing him all the best in retirement!
- **Anne Turner**, Associate Director and long-standing Investigator of HPRC, has retired as of June. We deeply appreciate Anne's many contributions to the center and wish her joy and fulfillment in this next chapter!

Recent Publications

[Designing implementation strategies for lay-delivered depression care: senior center organizational perspectives from a multi-site randomized clinical trial.](#)

Wang, Margaret Z., Lesley Steinman, Jo Anne Sirey, Amber Gum, Isabel Rollandi, Nicole Crawford, Brittany E. Blanchard, Alexander Dillabaugh, and Patrick J. Raue (Sept 2025)

["It's not about me. It's about what's best for my community": Factors impacting COVID-19 vaccine uptake among Native Americans and Latinos from two agricultural communities.](#)

Truong, L., Adams, A.K., Bishop, S., Dupuis, V., Garza, L., Quigley, T., Hassell, L., Drain, P.K., Ibarra, G., Sorrell, A.W. and Warne, T. (Aug 2025)

[Healthy Food Benefit Programs, Fruit and Vegetable Consumption, and Food Security.](#)

Knox, M.A., Wallace, J., Baquero, B., Hara-Hubbard, K. and Jones-Smith, J.uthor, Author (Aug 2025)

[Characterizing screening champions in the center for disease control and prevention's Colorectal Cancer Control Program \(CRCCP\).](#)

Escoffery, C., Sun, J., DeGroff, A., Sharma, K., Masud, M., Vu, T., Schlueter, D. and Hannon, P. (July 2025)

[MORE PUBLICATIONS](#)



PRC Network Participant

The UW Health Promotion Research Center is a [CDC Prevention Research Centers network member](#), building healthier communities together for more than 30 years.

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