

WHAT'S NEW IN THE CP RTP?

Program Updates

- The [2016 CP RTP Summer Research Experience](#) application opens on **Monday, November 30, 2015!** The application deadline will be **Monday, January 18, 2016 at 11:59pm CT** (*Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day*). Rising undergraduate juniors & seniors, graduate and health profession students, as well as underrepresented minorities, are encouraged to apply.

New CP RTP Employees



Amanda Narvais joined the CP RTP from the School of Health Professions in early October as a **Senior Administrative Assistant** to Dr. Shine Chang, Dr. Carrie Cameron and Stacey Martin. A fun, outgoing native Houstonian, Amanda is a happily married mother of three, as well as three stepchildren. She jokes *"There is NEVER a dull moment in my house!"* Although she loves barbecuing, singing/dancing, playing games and watching sports--Amanda divides her time between her beloved family and pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.



Oluwapelumi Timothy Adegoke joined the CPRTP in early November as a **Research Data Coordinator**. His first name translates as "*God is with me*" in his native Yoruba language and he prefers to go by his middle name "Timothy". He graduated from medical school in Nigeria in the year 2010 also holds an MPH degree with a concentration in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from Texas A&M Health Science Center and is a proud "Aggie" (Whoop Whoop)!

Timothy's professional and research interests include population-based HIV/AIDS prophylaxis and treatment, maternal/childhood obesity prevention, and cancer epidemiology. He hopes to commence his clinical residency training in Pediatrics next July of 2016, to be followed by a fellowship in preventive medicine. Although he is deceptively soft-spoken, Timothy is a very friendly, outgoing, "people" person. He loves to play/watch basketball, take road trips, and attend concerts. He says "*I feel very happy and privileged to be part of the Cancer Prevention Research Training Program team, and I'm confident that I will have a very productive and fulfilling time working here!*"

Trainee Abstracts Accepted for Poster Presentations

International Cancer Education Conference, October 21-23, 2015, Tucson, Arizona.

- **Meghan Strom** (*R25E Graduate Research Assistant, Behavioral Science, Mentor: Dr. Karen Basen-Engquist, Summer 2015*), "Feasibility of a Multi-Component Intervention for Health Education in Cancer Prevention."

The Obesity Society Conference, November 2 - 6, 2015, Los Angeles, California

- **Jennifer Davis, PhD** (*Gordon Colorectal Postdoc Fellow, Clinical Cancer Prevention, Mentor: Dr. Xiangwei Wu, 2011-2013*), Interactions of Pre-Diagnostic Obesity and Regular Aspirin Use on CIMP-Status in Colorectal Cancer Patients."
- **Chris Ford, PhD**, (*R25T Postdoc Fellow, Epidemiology, Dr. Shine Chang, 2015-Present*), USDA Dietary Guidelines Optimal for Prevention of Weight Gain After Menopause."

57th American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting and Exposition, December 5-8, 2015, Orlando, Florida

- **Mary Akosile** (*R25E Graduate Research Assistant, Leukemia, Mentor: Dr. Jorge Cortes, Summer 2015*), Survival Impact of Patients (Pts) with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML) Due to Failure from the Use of One or More Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors (TKI)

Trainee Accolades



Photo: CPRTP Trainee Alumni, **Demetrice "Dee" Jordan** with **Dr. Robert Bullard**, Texas Southern University's Dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey

Leland School of Public Affairs at the 2015 *Atlanta Studies Symposium*

- **Demetrice "Dee" Jordan, MA** (R25E ARRA Graduate Research Assistant, Health Disparities, Mentors: Drs. Lovell Jones and Denae King, 2010 & 2012), now a 2nd year PhD student at Michigan State University (MSU), has had a very productive year. She recently gave a lecture for the [Atlanta Studies Symposium](#); was invited to attend a meeting with former President Bill Clinton in November; and will be speaking at the University of Toledo during their upcoming GAW lecture. As president of the MSU Geography Graduate Group, Ms. Jordan also coordinated an effort to have the state of Michigan recognize her department. As a result, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder recently signed a proclamation declaring the MSU Department of Geography the site for Geography Awareness Week, November 15-21.
- **Shabnam Azadeh, PhD** (NIDA Predoctoral Fellow, Biostatistics, Mentor: Dr. Veera Baladandayuthapani, 2012-2015) successfully defended her dissertation *Cocaine Addiction: Integrating Neuroimaging and Genetic Data* in September; had a manuscript titled, [Integrative Bayesian Analysis of Neuroimaging-Genetic Data with Application to Cocaine Dependence](#), accepted for publication in *Neuroimage* journal in October; and accepted a position with the Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) as a Bayesian Statistician. The CDRH is a branch of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- **Jessica Clague DeHart, PhD** (R25T Predoctoral Fellow, Epidemiology, Mentor: Dr. Shine Chang, 2007-2010), joined the Department of Population Sciences and the Division of Cancer Etiology as a new assistant professor at the City of Hope in Duarte, California. For the past two year, Dr. Clague DeHart has been an Assistant Research Professor in Cancer Etiology. She is also in the process of developing new molecular-based exercise trials for patients during treatment and prevention trials for non-cancer populations, which will include employees at the City of Hope.
- A study on value of information analysis, submitted by **Ashish Deshmukh, PhD** (Gordon Colorectal Postdoctoral Fellow, Health Services Research, Mentor: Dr. Scott B. Cantor, 2014-Present), was selected as the winner of [The Lee B. Lusted Student Prize](#) for outstanding presentations of research in the Health Services and Policy Research category at the [37th Annual North American Meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making](#).
- **Stephanie Melkonian, PhD** (R25T Postdoctoral Fellow, Epidemiology, Mentor: Dr. Xifeng Wu, 2013-2015), was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship in Emergency Medicine at MD Anderson in September, 2015.
- **Dudith Pierre-Victor** (2015 Summer R25E Graduate Research Assistant, Health Disparities, Mentor: Dr. Lorna McNeill) was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship with the NCI Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program (CPFP).

Congratulations to all CPRTP Trainees and Alumni!