

CASSANDRA OKECHUKWU

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POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING

2008-2010 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholars Program
University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health
University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine

EDUCATION

June 2008 Doctor of Science
Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA
Department of Society, Human Development and Health
Major area: Community Intervention Research Methods
Minor areas: Politics and Policies for Social Change & Social Epidemiology
Dissertation: *Social Determinants of Smoking Behaviors among Working Class Populations*, Chair: Dr. Nancy Krieger

December 2002 Master of Science in Nursing, Master of Public Health
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, Baltimore, MD
Advisor: Dr. J. Agnew

May 2000 Bachelor of Science in Nursing
University of Maryland School of Nursing, Baltimore, MD
Advisor: Dr. Anne Belcher

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION

Massachusetts Registered Nurse Licensure
Interdisciplinary Concentration on Women, Gender and Health (Harvard School of Public Health)
Competency in Environmental and Occupational Health (Johns Hopkins University)

TEACHING INTERESTS

Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods
Program and Intervention Planning and Evaluation
Theories for Social Epidemiology and Health Promotion
Community-Based Intervention Research Methods

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Adoption of Evidence-Based Workplace Intervention and Wellness programs
Translation of Workplace Community-Based Interventions into Practice
Work-Family Balance among Low-Wage Workers
Epidemiology of Cancer Health Disparities
Global Tobacco Control Policy

RESEARCH WORK EXPERIENCE

University of California, Berkeley and San Francisco

September 2008 to present *Principal Investigator*

- Association of macroeconomic conditions with smoking among construction workers using data from the 1992 to 2007 Tobacco Use Supplements to the Current Population Survey.
- Attitudes, concerns, and priorities regarding family-responsive workplace policies among managers in nursing homes. Results being used to inform intervention design.

Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH), Boston, MA

June 2006-August 2008 *Qualitative Researcher* for Dr. Lisa Berkman

- Designed script and conducted qualitative interviews with managers and executives at four nursing homes as a sub-study to a larger grant.
- Authored mixed method papers evaluating family-responsive policies and work-family balance in nursing homes.

June 2006-June 2007 *Research Assistant* for Dr. Greg Connolly

- Conducted qualitative investigation of tobacco industry's sponsorship of cultural programs in African countries.
- Published paper that showed that the tobacco industry used music sponsorship as "future proof" advertising strategy in anticipation of anti-tobacco legislation.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI), Boston, MA

June 2005-June 2006 *Research Assistant* for Dr. Elizabeth Barbeau

- Assisted in the design and implementation of intervention materials for smoking cessation intervention.
- Authored the primary paper evaluating the main effects of the intervention.

February 2005-June 2005 *Research Assistant* for the Tobacco Free Nurses Leadership Program

- Provided technical support on tobacco control to nursing leaders and organizations.
- Wrote technical reports, newsletter and articles for website.

University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMB), Baltimore, MD

January 2003- August 2004 *Co-Investigator* with Jane Lipscomb as *in kind* Principal Investigator

- Assessed the educational needs of and implemented a training program for home care workers in Maryland.
- Awarded a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) contract to write a book chapter on immigrants in the healthcare workplace.

Qualitative Interviewer for Kathleen McPhaul

- Primary focus group facilitator in a pilot study of workplace violence risk among home visiting mental health workers in the state of New York.

Research Coordinator for Jane Lipscomb

- Managed the daily activities on two R01 occupational health intervention grants
- Supervised field work, data collection and data entry

TEACHING EXPERIENCE***Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA***

- Spring 2008 *Teaching Assistant* to Dr. David Williams
Social Epidemiology
- Led weekly classroom discussions of social epidemiologic concepts
 - Assisted in syllabus design and grading assignment as this was the first time class was being taught by Dr. Williams
- Spring 2007 &
Spring 2008 *Guest Lecturer* for Dr. Karen Emmon's Course
Psychosocial Theories of Health and Health Behavior
Topic: Evaluation of a College Workshop: A Case Method Approach
- Developed this class session that used case-based pedagogy to guide students on using health behavior theories in intervention design, implementation and evaluation.
- Summer 2007 *Teaching Assistant* to Dr. Jennifer Haas
Research Methods for Social and Behavioral Health: A Practical Guide
- Assisted in the design of this class, which was being taught for the first time in order to introduce Clinical Effectiveness students to social and behavioral concepts
 - Taught class sections on qualitative and mixed method research design
- Fall 2007 *Teaching Assistant* to Ms. Elizabeth Allred
Introduction to Data Management and Programming in SAS
- Held weekly lab sessions on the use of SAS statistical package
 - Nominated for Teaching Assistant of the year by students in the class

University of Maryland, School of Nursing, Baltimore, MD

- Spring 2004 *Clinical Instructor*
Community Health Nursing
- Developed and taught curriculum for this weekly class on community health, which introduced senior nursing students to epidemiology

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

- August 2001-Present *Registered Nurse* (Medical Coordinator 2001-2004)
Safe Haven Camp for Children affected by HIV/AIDS.
Frederick, MD & Vineyard Haven, MA
- July 2000-March 2002 *Registered Nurse*, Osler 8 Infectious Diseases Unit
Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD
- September 1998-June 2000 *Nurse Intern*, Pediatrics and Shock Trauma Unit
University of Maryland Medical System, Baltimore, MD

RESEARCH FUNDING

- 2008 – 2010 *Principal Investigator*, Examining the effects of tobacco control policies on disparities in smoking by occupational group from 1992 to 2007. Health Disparities Working Group, University of California, San Francisco
- 2008 – 2009 *Principal Investigator*, Macroeconomic trends and smoking among construction workers: Is there an association? Berkeley Population Center, University of California, Berkeley
- 2007 – 2009 *Principal Investigator*, Social determinants of smoking among working class populations. NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral Fellows (F31) (Declined funding)
- 2007 – 2009 *Principal Investigator*, Social determinants of smoking among working class populations. CDC Grants for Public Health Research Dissertation (R36) (Declined funding)
- 2007 – 2008 *Principal Investigator*, Social determinants of smoking among working class populations. CDC/ASPH Prevention Research Center Minority Fellowship
- 2003 – 2004 *Co-Investigator*, Maryland Homecare Workforce Initiative—A Peer-Training Demonstration Maryland Department of Aging Innovations in Aging grant program

UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND SERVICE TO THE PROFESSIONAbstract and Manuscript Review

- 2008 – 2009 American Journal of Industrial Medicine
- 2007 – 2009 American Journal of Preventive Medicine
- 2007 – 2009 American Public Health Association, Occupational Health section
- 2007 – 2009 Social Science and Medicine
- 2006 – 2009 Preventing Chronic Disease

Committee and Board Membership

- 2005 – 2008 Member, Harvard Women, Gender and Health Interdisciplinary Committee
- 2006 – 2008 Clinical Associate, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Cantor Center for Nursing (Committee on DFCI/UMASS Boston U56 PhD Program in Health Policy)
- 2006 – 2007 Student Chair, Student Advisory Committee to HSPH Division of Public Health Practice
- 2003 – 2008 Board Secretary 2004-2007, Center for Nursing Advocacy
- 2003 – 2004 Member, Substance Abuse and HIV Prevention for Black Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) Commercial Sex Workers UMB Steering Committee
- 2001 – 2002 Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Ethics Committee

Membership in Professional Organizations

- 2001 – present American Public Health Association (Section Member, Occupational Health & Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs)
- 2004 – 2008 Harvard Africa Health Forum (President, 2007-08)
- 2006 – 2008 Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco

AWARDS AND HONORS

2009	NIH Health Disparities Loan Repayment Program
2008	Harvard School of Public Health Thomas D. Cabot Academic Scholarship
2007	Harvard School of Public Health Student Recognition Award
2007	ASPH/CDC Prevention Research Center Fellowship
2004 – 2007	National Cancer Institute Pre-doctoral Fellowship
2001	Johns Hopkins NIOSH Education and Research Center Fellowship
2001	Johns Hopkins School of Public Health Academic Scholarship
2001	Johns Hopkins Nursing Hearst Foundation Academic Scholarship
2000	U.S. Army Nurse Corp Spirit of Nursing Leadership and Service Award
2000	University of Maryland Student Government Association Outstanding Leader Award
2000	Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society Leadership and Scholarship Award
2000	Johns Hopkins Hospital Outstanding Nurse Scholar Award
1998	Montgomery College Volunteer of the Year Award
1997	Hebrew Home of Greater Washington College Volunteer of the Year Award

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Research Papers

1. **Okechukwu, C.**, Krieger, N., Sorensen, G., Li, Y., & Barbeau, E. (In press). Testing hypothesized psychosocial mediators: lessons learned in the MassBUILT study. *Health Education and Behavior*.
2. **Okechukwu, C.**, Krieger, N., Chen, J., Sorensen, G., Li, Y., & Barbeau, E. (In press). The association of hazards in the work environment and smoking in a US multi-ethnic working class population: The United for Health Study. *Public Health Reports*, 125(2).
3. Lathan, C., **Okechukwu, C.**, Fisher-Drake, B., & Bennett, G. (In press). Racial differences in the perception of lung cancer: Data from the 2005 Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS). *Cancer*.
4. Berkman, L., Ertel, K., Buxton, O., & **Okechukwu, C.** (In press). Managers' practices related to work-family balance predict employee cardiovascular risk and sleep duration in extended care settings. *Journal of Occupational Health Psychology*
5. **Okechukwu, C.**, Krieger, N., Sorensen, G., Li, Y., & Barbeau, E. (2009). MassBUILT: Effectiveness of an apprenticeship site-based smoking cessation intervention for unionized building trades workers. *Cancer Causes and Control*, 20(6) 887–894.
6. Patel, P., **Okechukwu, C.**, Collin, J., & Hughes B. (2009). Bringing “light, life and happiness”: British American Tobacco and music sponsorship in sub-Saharan Africa. *Third World Quarterly* 30(4) 685-700.
7. Drake, B.A., Lathan, C., **Okechukwu, C.**, Bennett, G. (2008). Prostate cancer screening, family history and race. *Annals of Epidemiology*, 18(7) 579-83.

8. Bennett, G., Wolin, K., **Okechukwu, C.**, Arthur, C., Askew, S., Sorensen, G., & Emmons, K. (2008). Nativity and cigarette smoking among lower income Blacks: Results from the Healthy Directions study. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health, 10*(4) 305-11.
9. McPhaul, K., Rosen, J., Bobb, S., **Okechukwu, C.**, Geiger-Brown, J., Kauffman, K., Johnson, J., & Lipscomb, J. (2007). An exploratory study of mandated safety measures for home visiting case managers. *Canadian Journal of Nursing Research, 39*(4) 172-189.

Papers Under Peer Review

1. **Okechukwu, C.**, Sembajwe, G., & Berkman, L. (Under Review). That's not our role: A qualitative study of family-responsive workplace policies in extended care settings. *Work and Occupation*.
2. **Okechukwu, C.**, Nguyen, K., & Hickman, N. (Under Review). Partner smoking characteristics: Association with smoking and quitting among blue-collar workers. *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*.

Book Chapters

1. **Okechukwu, C.**, & Lipscomb, J. A. (2004). Immigrant workers in nursing home and home health care. In Barron, S. (Ed.), *Special Populations at Risk /Immigrant Workers*. NIOSH/CDC.
2. Lipscomb, J. A. & **Okechukwu, C.** (2006). Workplace violence: An occupational hazard, not "part of the job". In Fitzpatrick, J. & Wallace, M. (Eds.), *Encyclopedia for Nursing Research* (2nd ed.). Springer Publishing Company, New York.

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

Oral Presentations

1. **Okechukwu, C.**, Krieger, N., Li, Y., & Barbeau, E. (March, 2009). *Apprenticeship site-based smoking cessation intervention for blue-collar workers in the United States*. Paper presented at the 14th World Conference on Tobacco or Health, Mumbai, India.
2. **Okechukwu, C.**, Sorensen, G., Punnett, L., Brockhaus, A., Borwegan, B., & Wagner, G. (November, 2007). *Paradigm shift or struggle: Integrating health promotion and health protection*. (Session organizer and moderator). Paper presented at the American Public Health Association meeting, Washington DC.
3. **Okechukwu, C.**, Krieger, N., Sorensen, G., Li, Y., & Barbeau, E. (September, 2007). *Exposure to hazards and smoking behaviors in a multiethnic working class population*. Paper presented at the Worklife 2007 National Symposium: Protecting and Promoting Worker Health. National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Washington DC.
4. **Okechukwu, C.**, Ertel K., Buxton, O., Sorensen, G., & Berkman, L. (August, 2007). *The health impact of work/family demands among low wage employees in long-term care industry*. Paper presented at the Academy of Management meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
5. McPhaul, K., Rosen, J., Lipscomb, J., Muntaner, C., Wilburn, S., **Okechukwu, C.**, Fisher, J., & Moir, S. (November, 2003). *Effectiveness of safety strategies in visiting mental health case workers: Using focus groups*. (Roundtable Discussion). Paper presented at the American Public Health Association meeting, San Francisco, CA.

6. McPhaul, K., **Okechukwu, C.**, & Lipscomb, J. (November, 2003). *Intertwining advocacy and scholarship in occupational health*. Paper presented at the American Public Health Association meeting, San Francisco, CA.
7. **Okechukwu, C.** & Langlie, N. (November, 2003). *An art based program to increase the social support network of young adults living with HIV*. Paper presented at the American Public Health Association meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Posters

1. **Okechukwu, C.**, Krieger, N., Sorensen, G., Li, Y., & Barbeau, E. (October, 2008). *MassBUILT: Efficacy of an apprenticeship site-based smoking cessation intervention for unionized building trades workers*. In ATOD Student Poster Showcase. Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs section. American Public Health Association meeting, San Diego, CA.
2. **Okechukwu, C.**, Krieger, N., Quinn, M., & Barbeau, E. (February, 2007). *Physical and social hazards in the workplace and smoking behavior*. Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco, Austin, TX.