

CORE EXPERTISE

Director

Jalie A. Tucker, PhD, MPH

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Dr. Tucker, a clinical psychologist with public health experience, has 30 years of NIH-funded substance abuse research that intersects with Core J initiatives, including telehealth (IVR) applications with disadvantaged rural substance users living with HIV/AIDS. Other relevant expertise includes behavioral economic theory and methods for studying health behaviors, the timeframes over which individuals make choices, and motivators of choice; strong measurement skills, particularly behavioral assessment of substance use, related risk factors, and associated contextual features; and population and clinical perspectives on health behavior change strategies. She is Professor and Chair, Department of Health Behavior, School of Public Health (SOPH) and Research Director and PI of the CDC-funded Prevention Research Center core research project *CITY Health* at the UAB Center for the Study of Community Health.

Co-Director

Cathy A. Simpson, PhD

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Dr. Simpson, Associate Professor (part-time), Department of Health Behavior, SOPH, is a clinical psychologist and behavior analyst with expertise in public health applications of behavioral economics. She also is consulting Program Evaluator for the Health Services Center Inc. (HSC), Hobson City, AL, an AIDS Service Organization (ASO) serving 14 counties in rural east Alabama. She has more than a decade of experience working with ASOs and extensive experience with community-based research and evidence-based HIV risk reduction interventions. She oversees the interface essential for effective academic-community partnerships.

Liaison to Biostatistics and Analysis Core D

JeeWon Cheong, PhD

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Dr. Cheong is Assistant Professor, Department of Health Behavior, SOPH. She is social and quantitative psychologist who is an expert in mediation and longitudinal modeling as applied to real life data, including HIV behavioral risk factors. She coordinates Core J faculty research needs with the Biostatistics and Analysis Core D.

Core Manager

Susan D. Chandler, MPH, MA

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Ms. Chandler holds master's degrees in health behavior and English and is the Program Manager for Core J and the related *CITY Health* project in the UAB Center for the Study of Community Health Prevention Research Center. She is experienced with publication and grant writing and reporting requirements for NIH, CDC, and SAMHSA, and IRB protocol management. She oversees the implementation of venue enumeration sampling (VES) and respondent driven sampling (RDS) and is experienced with management of RDS-generated network chains and data collection and with IVR applications for data collection and participant reimbursements.

Mazheruddin M. Mulla, MPH

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Mr. Mulla is the Core J Community Engagement Coordinator. He received his degree in health behavior and health education with emphasis on HIV studies. He previously worked with the Alabama Vaccine Clinical Trials Unit recruiting MSM in community settings. For Core J, he develops community-based approaches for locating and recruiting participants at elevated HIV risk; identifies group- and individual-level prevention targets; and meets with groups, organizations, and opinion leaders who can help with engaging target groups, among other community-based activities. He spearheads data-sharing between academic and community partners.

Other Core J Key Personnel

Erika L. Austin, PhD

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Dr. Austin is a Research Associate in the Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine (SOM). She is a medical sociologist specializing in vulnerable populations and an expert methodologist in qualitative and mixed methods research. Her research focuses on sexual health with diverse populations, including adolescents, AA women at high risk for HIV infection, and AA women who have sex with women. She provides expertise and coordination of projects requiring qualitative or mixed research methods.

Eric A. M. Chamot, MD, PhD

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Dr. Chamot is Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology and International Health, SOPH. He is an infectious disease epidemiologist with experience in clinical and behavioral epidemiology, screening, infectious diseases and cancer. He led a collaborative agreement with NIAID/FIC to strengthen clinical research and research management capabilities at three International Centers for Excellence in Research on infectious diseases in India, Mali, and Uganda. His research program includes HIV/AIDS as an area of emphasis. He contributes expertise on social network theory and analysis to community projects and development of connections to international HIV research groups.

Thomas N. Creger, PhD

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Dr. Creger is Program Manager, Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, SOM. He is a health promotion and education specialist, with expertise on geographic information systems (GIS). He offers a course through the UAB School of Public covering theory and application of GIS for public health. For Core J, he provides expertise on GIS and coordinates with the Community Data Unit of the UAB Center for the Study of Community Health, which provides GIS mapping services for community research and interventions.

Karen L. Cropsey, PsyD

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Dr. Cropsey is Associate Professor, Division of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurobiology, Department of Medicine, SOM. She is a clinical psychologist with research and clinical expertise in treating substance abuse in vulnerable populations, including persons in the criminal justice system and persons living with HIV/AIDS. She investigates alcohol treatment for PLWHA and smoking cessation interventions and buprenorphine for HIV risk reduction with persons in the criminal justice system. She provides expertise and coordination of projects involving the criminal justice system, in particular community corrections, and other vulnerable populations. Dr. Cropsey also coordinates mentorship and trainee activities for the CFAR as a whole through Core A (Administration).

Susan L. Davies, PhD

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Dr. Davies is Associate Professor, Department of Health Behavior, SOPH. She is a health promotion and education expert on youth sexual risk behavior and risk reduction, including with respect to HIV. She has a longstanding history of community-based research, intervention mapping, and community outreach. Recently, she consulted with HSC to set up a free-standing HIV/substance abuse-focused “drop in center” in Anniston, AL. She contributes HIV health education and promotion activities in Core J, in coordination with Co-Director Simpson. She received the SOPH *Outstanding Public Health Service Award* in 2012 for her work.

Robin G. Lanzi, PhD, MPH

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Dr. Lanzi is Associate Professor, Department of Health Behavior, SOPH. She is a developmental psychologist with expertise in adolescent parenting, child maltreatment, maternal depression, early intervention, and developmental outcomes. She is a lead investigator on a 5-site NICHD study, the *Community Child Health Network (CCHN) Phase II*, a multi-disciplinary CBPR study of stress, resilience, maternal allostatic load, and birth and child health outcomes, and on the NIH-funded SBIR Project SAAFE described earlier. She contributes expertise in these areas for HIV-related research projects.

Max Michael, III MD

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Dr. Michael is Professor and Dean of the UAB SOPH. He directs the UAB Center for the Study of Community Health (CSCH), which provides services relevant to Core J and related CFAR aims, including program evaluation, GIS services, and survey research. He has a longstanding community presence involving leadership of initiatives and programs for the poor and disadvantaged and oversees “*One Great Community*,” which comprises academic and community leaders in the greater Birmingham area and is the community engagement arm of the UAB Center for Clinical and Translational Science. He provides administrative support and facilitates Core J access to CSCH services and established community partnerships.

Wynne E. Norton, PhD

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Dr. Norton is Assistant Professor, Department of Health Behavior, SOPH. She is a social psychologist who conducts research on advancing implementation of evidence-based practices and programs in real-world public health/health care settings, including in the HIV/AIDS domain. She helped develop the CDC's strategy for scaling up PrEP in the U.S. and collaborates with Drs. Saag and Mugavero. She advises on BCSC web-based communication platforms and dissemination of HIV-related information and best practices to faculty and community partners.

Joseph E. Schumacher, PhD

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Dr. Schumacher is Professor, Division of Preventive Medicine, Department of Medicine, SOM. He is a clinical psychologist with research accomplishments in evidence-based behavioral treatment of drug addiction and associated social, mental health, and HIV/AIDS consequences. His work on behavioral treatments is being scaled up to address HIV/AIDS infection associated with opiate injection drug use in China and Eastern Europe. He contributes expertise to Core training and mentoring, as well as consultation on program evaluation projects with AIDS service organizations. He is a CFAR Executive Committee member.

Janet M. Turan, PhD

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Dr. Turan is Associate Professor, Department of Health Care Organization and Policy. She is an expert in population dynamics and reproductive health. She conducts quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research on maternal and child health in low-resource settings of developing and developed countries, including a current study aimed at reducing the adverse effects of HIV/AIDS on the physical and mental health of pregnant and childbearing women in Kenya, with a special focus on HIV-related stigma and discrimination. She leads the FRESH IRG (***Finding Respect and Ending Stigma around HIV***) and its CFAR-funded FRESH Study focused on reducing HIV-related stigma and discrimination in Alabama and Mississippi.