

HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY TRACK & MINOR CORE FACULTY

John M. Ruiz, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Director of Health Track, Department of Psychology
Affiliate Public Health, Family Studies

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Expertise: Stress and cardiovascular disease, Interpersonal influences, health disparities, Latino health.

My program of research focuses on psychosocial influences on health. One line of my work examines relationships between individual level psychosocial factors, social behaviors, and cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk with an emphasis on biobehavioral mechanisms. A second line of work is focused on racial/ethnic and socioeconomic health disparities, particularly comparative Latino health.

John J.B. Allen, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professor, Department of Psychology

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Expertise: Depression, Psychophysiology, HRV/Cardiac Vagal control

My research focuses primarily on the etiology and treatment of mood disorders, linking measures of central-nervous activity with autonomic nervous system activity, particularly cardiac vagal control. The objective of this work is to lead to the development of new treatment approaches. In that spirit, my lab has investigated the efficacy of alternative treatments for major depression, most recently focusing on neuromodulatory approaches;

Anne Bowen

Professor, Department of Psychology

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Expertise: pediatric psychology, behavioral med, developing & evaluating theory driven interventions.

My clinical and research interests focus on individuals with chronic health & behavior problems including Cystic fibrosis, cancer, and autism. I also have a research project examining barriers and facilitators of exercise among athletes. I continue to be interested in prevention of chronic health problems, especially HIV in high risk groups. Finally, expanding the use of technology in clinical & research contexts is a particular interest.

Heidi A. Hamann, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Psychology
Department of Family and Community Medicine

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Expertise: Psychooncology, Stigma, Cancer Survivorship

My research focuses on psychological and behavioral aspect across the cancer control spectrum. I was trained as a health psychologist with specialty post-doctoral training in cancer control and population sciences.

Matthias Mehl, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Psychology

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Expertise: Social/Personality and Health, Ecological (Ambulatory) Sampling

My research focuses on the use of subjective and objective ambulatory assessment methods to study how social processes affect health. I am a trained social and personality psychologist with special emphasis on health psychology.

Name Mary-Frances O'Connor

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

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Expertise: Bereavement, stress, psychoneuroimmunology, neuroimaging

My work has primarily focused primarily on a bereaved population and the neurobiological, immune and autonomic parameters that vary between individual grief responses. Specifically, my techniques have included functional and structural neuroimaging, immune and endocrine analysis of saliva and blood, and psychophysiological assessment of heart rate variability. I am continually interested in novel ways to evoke emotion, especially grief, using personalized stimuli, reaction time paradigms, written emotional disclosure and virtual worlds.

David A. Sbarra, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Psychology

Affiliated Faculty, Division of Family Studies and Human Development

Affiliated Faculty, Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute, University of Arizona

Associate Appointment (Courtesy), University of Arizona Canyon Ranch

Center for Prevention and Health Promotion (CRCPHP), Mel and Enid

Zuckerman College of Public Health

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Expertise: Social Relationships and health, Marriage/Divorce, Stress

I study close relationships and health, especially the bio-psycho-social correlates of how people recover from stressful relationship transitions.

Catherine M. Shisslak, Ph.D.

Professor, Family & Community Medicine, Psychiatry, Psychology

Director of the Behavior Health Clinic

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Expertise: Behavioral Medicine

My area of expertise is the relationship between health and behavior in patients who present in medical settings. I am the Director of Psychological Programs for solid organ transplant at

Banner-UAMC hospital. In this role I provide research, clinical and teaching activities as it relates to abdominal and cardiothoracic organ transplant and devices. I also oversee clinical psychology externships at the UAMC Cancer Center and organ transplant program. I have in the past provided behavioral health programs for primary care in Family medicine where I taught medical residents and psychology interns communication skills in patient care and brief interventions for mental health issues as presented in primary care. I also taught behavioral health topics relevant to primary care.

Jeff Stone, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Psychology and Department of Psychiatry

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Expertise: Social Psychology of Health and Health Disparities

My research focuses on understanding (1) health attitude and behavior change processes, and (2) the role of implicit bias in creating and perpetuating health disparities. Our currently funded research focuses on the intergroup bias processes that contribute to disparities in how health care providers interact with, make decisions for, and treat stigmatized patients. Our projects also test whether having health care providers complete training in the psychology of implicit bias can improve their care for stigmatized patients.