

CHUKWUEMEKA N. OKAFOR, PhD, MPH

DATE: December 18, 2020

PRESENT POSITION

Assistant Professor of Epidemiology
Department of Public Health
Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences
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EDUCATION

PhD	(2016)	Epidemiology	Department of Epidemiology College of Public Health & Health Professions University of Florida Gainesville, FL
MPH	(2012)	Health Behavior	Department of Public Health University of North Florida Jacksonville, FL
BS	(2005)	Biochemistry	Department of Biochemistry University of Lagos Akoka, Lagos, Nigeria

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019 –	Assistant Professor of Epidemiology Department of Public Health Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences Baylor University Waco, TX
2016 – 2019	Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Division of Infectious Diseases David Geffen School of Medicine University of California, Los Angeles, CA

2012 – 2016 Graduate Research Assistant
Department of Epidemiology
College of Public Health & Health Professions
University of Florida, CA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2019 – Assistant Professor of Epidemiology
Baylor University, Waco TX
Courses taught:
Public Health Concepts in Epidemiology (graduate): Fall 2019
Epidemiology/Vital Statistics (undergraduate): Spring 2020

2016 – Graduate Teaching Assistant
Department of Public Health, College of Public Health and Health Professions

Courses teach assisted:
Biology and Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS (graduate)
Instructor: Dr. Robert L Cook

2014 – Graduate Teaching Assistant
Department of Public Health, College of Public Health and Health Professions

Courses teach assisted:
Public Health Concepts (undergraduate)
Instructor: Dr. Krishna Vaddiparti

Principles of Epidemiology in Public Health (graduate)
Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Sugimoto

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Publications

Peer-reviewed journal articles

1. Noor SW, Hart TA, **Okafor CN**, Ware D, Chew KW, D'Souza GD, Ho K, Friedman MR, Plankey M. Staying or Moving: Results of a latent transition analysis examining intra-individual stability of recreational substance use among MSM in the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study from 2004 to 2016. In Press with Drug and Alcohol Dependence, January 2021.
2. Ware D, Plankey MW, Mackey F, Teplin LA, **Okafor CN**, Surkan P. The longitudinal impact of employment, retirement, and disability status on depressive symptoms in HIV-positive men in the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study. PLOS One, October 2020.
doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0239291
3. **Okafor CN**, Li M, Paltzer J. Self-reported cannabis use and biomarkers of inflammation among adults in the United States. Brain, Behavior, and Immunity-Health. August, 2020.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbih.2020.100109>

4. Meanley S, Brennan-Ing M, Brown A, Egan JE, Haberlen S, **Okafor CN**, Teplin AL, Ware D, Plankey MW. Lifetime conversion therapy, mental health typologies and resiliency among middle-aged and older adult men who have sex with men. *The Gerontologist*. September 2020. doi:10.1093/geront/gnaa069
5. **Okafor CN**, Hucks-Ortiz C, Hightow-Weidman LB, Magnus M, Emel L, Beauchamp G, Kuo I, Hendrix C, Mayer KH, Shoptaw S. Associations between self-reported substance use behaviors and PrEP acceptance and adherence among black MSM in the HPTN 073 study. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. September 2020. doi: 10.1097/QAI.0000000000002407.
6. Krsak M, Wada N, Plankey MW, Kinney G, Epeldegui M, **Okafor CN**, Friedman M, Palella F, Erlandson K. Self-reported cannabis use and markers of inflammation in men who have sex with men (MSM) with and without HIV. *Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research*. March 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1089/can.2019.0083>
7. **Okafor CN**, Plankey MW, Goodman-Meza D, Li M, Bautista K, Bolivar H, Phyllis T, Brown T, Shoptaw SJ. Association between marijuana use and incident diabetes in women and men with and at risk for HIV. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*. February 2020. 209, 107935. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2020.107935>
8. **Okafor CN**, Li M, Hucks-Ortiz C, Mayer KH, Shoptaw S. Disclosure of HIV Status and HIV Sexual Transmission Behaviors among HIV-Positive Black Men who have Sex with Men in the BROTHERS (HPTN061) Study. *Journal of Urban Health: Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine*. February 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-020-00419-9>
9. Quinn B, **Okafor CN**, Shoptaw S, Gorbach PM & Brookmeyer R. Investigating possible syndemic relationships between structural and drug use factors, sexual HIV transmission and viral load among men of colour who have sex with men in Los Angeles County. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, February 2020 39(2), 116–127. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13026>
10. Okafor CN, van Nunen L, Ipser J, Dannat L, Lake M, Shoptaw S, Stein DJ, London E. Contingency Management for Methamphetamine Use Disorder in South Africa. *Drug and Alcohol Review*. December 2019: doi.org/10.1111/dar.13019
11. Li M, Takada S, Okafor CN, Gorbach PM, Shoptaw SJ & Cole SW. Experienced Homophobia and Gene Expression Alterations in Black and Latino Men who have Sex with Men in Los Angeles County. *Brain Behav Immun*. October 2019: doi.org/10.1016/j.bbi.2019.09.021
12. Meanley SP, Stall RD, Dakwar O, Egan JE, Friedman MR, Haberlen SA, Okafor CN, Teplin LA, Plankey MW. Characterizing Experiences of Conversion Therapy Among Middle-Aged and Older Men Who Have Sex with Men from the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS). *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*. June 2019: doi.org/10.1007/s13178-019-00396-y
13. **Okafor CN**, Xinguang C, Surkan P, Martin EM, Plankey M, Shoptaw S, Cook RL, Li M. Associations between Current and Cumulative Exposure to Marijuana and Changes in Cognitive Processing Speed and Flexibility for 17-years in HIV-seropositive and HIV-seronegative Men in

- the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study. *Subst Use Misuse*. January 2019: doi: 10.1080/10826084.2018.1495736
14. **Okafor CN**, Barnett W, Zar HJ, Nhapi R, Koen N, Shoptaw S, Stein DJ. Associations of Emotional, Physical, or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence and Depression Symptoms among South African Women in a Prospective Cohort Study. *J Interpers Violence*. August 2018;886260518796522. doi:10.1177/0886260518796522.
 15. Li MJ, **Okafor CN**, Gorbach PM, Shoptaw S. Intersecting burdens: Homophobic victimization, unstable housing, and methamphetamine use in a cohort of men of color who have sex with men. *Drug Alcohol Depend*. 2018;192:179-185. doi:10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2018.07.039.
 16. **Okafor CN**, Christodoulou J, Bantjes J, Qondela T, Stewart J, Shoptaw S, Tomlinson M, Rotherman-Borus MJ. Understanding HIV Risk Behaviors among Young Men in South Africa: A Syndemic Approach. *AIDS Behav*. July 2018. doi:10.1007/s10461-018-2227-x.
 17. Chen X, Yu B, Stanton B, Cook RL, Chen D-GD, **Okafor CN**. Medical Marijuana Laws and Marijuana Use Among U.S. Adolescents: Evidence From Michigan Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Data. *J Drug Educ*. October 2018:47237918803361. doi:10.1177/0047237918803361.
 18. **Okafor CN**, Gorbach PM, Ragsdale A, Quinn B, Shoptaw S. Correlates of Preexposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Use among Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) in Los Angeles, California. *J Urban Health Bull N Y Acad Med*. June 2017. doi:10.1007/s11524-017-0172-z.
 19. Kelso-Chichetto NE, **Okafor CN**, Cook RL, Abraham AG, Bolan R, Plankey M. Association Between Depressive Symptom Patterns and Clinical Profiles Among Persons Living with HIV. *AIDS Behav*. June 2017. doi:10.1007/s10461-017-1822-6.
 20. **Okafor CN**, Cook RL, Chen X, Surkan PJ, Becker JT, Shoptaw S, Martin E, Plankey MW. Prevalence and correlates of marijuana use among HIV-seropositive and seronegative men in the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS), 1984–2013. *Am J Drug Alcohol Abuse*. 2016;0(0):1-11. doi:10.1080/00952990.2016.1245738.
 21. **Okafor CN**, Zhou Z, Burrell LE, Kelso NE, Whitehead NE, Harman JS, Cook CL, Cook RL. Marijuana use and viral suppression in persons receiving medical care for HIV-infection. *Am J Drug Alcohol Abuse*. July 2016:1-8. doi:10.1080/00952990.2016.1191505.
 22. **Okafor CN**, Cook RL, Chen X, Surkan PJ, Becker JT, Shoptaw S, Martin E, Plankey MW. Trajectories of Marijuana Use among HIV-seropositive and HIV-seronegative MSM in the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS), 1984–2013. *AIDS Behav*. June 2016:1-14. doi:10.1007/s10461-016-1445-3.
 23. **Okafor CN**, Kelso NE, Bryant V, Burrell LE, Míguez MJ, Gongvatana A, Tashima KT, de la Monte S, Cook RL, Cohen RA. Body mass index, inflammatory biomarkers and neurocognitive impairment in HIV-infected persons. *Psychol Health Med*. June 2016:1-14. doi:10.1080/13548506.2016.1199887.
 24. Kelso-Chichetto NE, **Okafor CN**, Harman JS, Canidate SS, Cook CL, Cook RL. Complementary and Alternative Medicine Use for HIV Management in the State of Florida:

Medical Monitoring Project. *J Altern Complement Med N Y N*. 2016;22(11):880-886. doi:10.1089/acm.2016.0190.

25. Hu X, Chen X, Cook RL, Chen D-G, **Okafor CN**. Modeling Drinking Behavior Progression in Youth with Cross-sectional Data: Solving an Under-identified Probabilistic Discrete Event System. *Curr HIV Res*. 2016;14(2):93-100.
26. **Okafor CN**, Hu X, Cook RL. Racial/ethnic disparities in HPV vaccine uptake among a sample of college women. *J Racial Ethn Health Disparities*. 2015;2(3):311-316. doi:10.1007/s40615-014-0074-7.
27. Xiao H, Li S, Chen X, Yu B, Gao M, Yan H, **Okafor CN**. Protection Motivation Theory in Predicting Intention to Engage in Protective Behaviors against Schistosomiasis among Middle School Students in Rural China. *PLOS Negl Trop Dis*. 2014;8(10): e3246. doi: 10.1371/journal.pntd.0003246.

Manuscripts currently under revision or review

1. Le MG, Li M, **Okafor CN**, Diep NB & Shoptaw SJ. Severity of methamphetamine use in patients receiving methadone maintenance therapy for opioid use disorder in Vietnam: Related factors and treatment outcomes. Under review with Journal of Addiction Medicine
2. Opara I, Lardier DT, **Okafor CN**, Parisi D, Garcia-Reid P, Reid RJ. Perception of marijuana risks and benefits among youth living in an urban city: A qualitative exploration. Under review with Journal of Psychoactive Drugs.
3. Brennan-Ing M, Haberlen S, Ware D, Egan JE, Brown AL, Meanley S, Palella, FJ, Bolan R, Cook JA, **Okafor CN**, Friedman, MR & Plankey MW. Psychological connection to the gay community and negative self-appraisals in middle-ages and older men who have sex with men: the mediating effects of developmental regulation. Under review with The Gerontologist.

Abstracts and presentations at scientific meetings

1. Le G, Dao T, **Okafor CN**, Li M, Nguyen T, Shoptaw S. Severity of methamphetamine use among methadone patients in Vietnam: Prevalence and Correlates. Poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, June 2019.
2. **Okafor CN** & Shoptaw S. Contingency management treatment for methamphetamine use disorder in Cape Town, South Africa. Poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, June 2019.
3. **Okafor CN**, Shoptaw S, Rico M, Gelberg L. Associations between abstinence and reduction in marijuana use and changes in mental and physical health well-being among primary care patients in Los Angeles. Poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, June 2018.
4. Rico M, **Okafor CN**, & Gelberg L. Opioid misuse among Latino primary care patients in Los

- Angeles. Poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, June 2018.
5. **Okafor CN**, Lasopa S, Striley CW, Cook RL, Cottler LB. ADHD and the risk of initiation of marijuana use among a national sample of youth 10 to 18 years of age. Poster presentation: at the 77th annual meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD), June 2015.
 6. **Okafor CN**, Zhou Z, Burrell LE, Whitehead NE, Harman J, Cook C, Cook RL. Marijuana use, antiretroviral therapy adherence, viral suppression among persons living with HIV in Florida. Oral presentations at the annual meeting of the American Psychopathological Association, NIDA meeting in Columbia University, New York. March 2015 and at the Public Health and Health Professions Research Day, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, April 2015. *Awarded: Top abstract in the college.*
 7. **Okafor CN**, Cook RL, Cohen R. Is body mass index associated with neurocognitive functioning of persons with HIV infection? Oral presentation: Public Health and Health Professions Research Day, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, January 2014. *Awarded: Top abstract in the college.*
 8. **Okafor CN**, Kelso N, Friary J, Cook RL. Racial and age disparities in HPV vaccine uptake in college women. Poster presentation: annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, November 2013.
 9. **Okafor CN**, Kelso N, Friary J, Cook RL. Pap testing in college women: Individual behaviors and characteristics as important factors. Oral presentation: annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, November 2013.
 10. Cook RL, **Okafor CN**, Hillier S, Wiesenfeld H, Philip S, Saylor L, Schwebke J. Adherence to repeated home screening for bacterial vaginosis and STIs among young women participating in the BRAVO randomized clinical trial. Poster presentation: International Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases Research, Vienna, Austria, July 2013.
 11. **Okafor CN**, Friary J, Barkley P, Cook RL. Racial/Ethnic Differences in initiating and completing the HPV vaccine among college women. Poster presentation: Public Health and Health Professions Research Day, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, April 2013. *Awarded: Top abstract in the college.*
 12. Kelso N, Friary J, **Okafor CN**, Barkley P, Cook RL. The association between different types of oral sexual behaviors and oral HPV in college women: are all sexual behaviors equal? Poster presentation: UF Shands cancer research day, Florida, Gainesville, FL, March 2013.
 13. **Okafor CN**, Shareef Z, Scites M, Drayton B, Edwards G, Singleton L, Mirza A, & Rathore M. Measuring retention in care of HIV-infected pregnant women at UF CARES: a quality improvement project. Poster presentation: Public Health Research Conference, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL, July 2012.

Letters to the editor

1. **Okafor CN.** Marijuana use and health in primary care. *J Gen Intern Med* 2013; 1525-1497. PMID: 24249114.
2. Acheampong A, **Okafor CN**, Scheidell J. Regarding driving after drug and alcohol use among US high school seniors. *Am J Public Health.* 2014; Vol 104, No 4.

Book chapter

1. Cottler LB, **Okafor CN.** Recent Epidemiological Trends in Marijuana Use. In Winters K, Sabet K (Eds), *Contemporary Health Issues in Marijuana.* New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2016.

SERVICE

a. Professional

- 2016 – **Ad-Hoc Reviewer**, *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes* (1 manuscript)
- 2016 – **Ad-Hoc Reviewer**, *AIDS and Behavior*, (5 manuscripts)
- 2016 – **Ad-Hoc Reviewer**, *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* (10 manuscripts)
- 2018 – **Conference Abstract Reviewer**, *Society for Epidemiologic Research* (10 abstracts)
- 2019 – **Ad-Hoc Reviewer**, *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, (1 manuscript)
- 2019 – **Ad-Hoc Reviewer**, *Journal of Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities* (1 manuscript)
- 2019 – **Ad-Hoc Reviewer**, *Journal of International AIDS Society* (1 manuscript)
- 2017 – **Town Hall Panelist**, *Fostering Inclusiveness in the Classroom*, College of Public Health and Health Professions, Research Day, University of Florida

b. University

- 2017 – **Travel Grant Reviewer**, Graduate Student Council, University of Florida
- 2017 – **Graduate Student Representative**, Research Committee, College of Public Health and Health Professions, University of Florida
- 2019 – **Epidemiology Search Committee**, Department of Public Health, Baylor University

FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS

- 2016 – 2019 **Global HIV Prevention Fellowship [Postdoctoral]**
Division of Infectious Diseases, David Geffen School of Medicine
University of California, Los Angeles
- 2016 – 2018 **HPTN Scholars Award**
HIV Prevention Trials Network

- 2014 – 2016 **Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Predoctoral Fellowship**
National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
- 2014 **Substance Abuse Training Center Predoctoral Fellowship**
University of Florida
- 2012 – 2014 **Outstanding Research Abstract Award**
Research Day, College of Public Health and Health Professions
University of Florida
- 2012 – 2014 **Grinter Fellowship Award**
University of Florida
- 2013 **Travel Award**
Graduate Student Council
University of Florida
- 2013 **Epidemiology Chair’s Travel Award**
Department of Epidemiology, University of Florida
- 2013 **International Student Achievement Award**
International Student Center
University of Florida
- 2011 – 2012 **International Student Scholarship**
International Student Center
University of North Florida

RESEARCH SUPPORT

a. Active

- 2019 – 2024 Title: The Impact of Cannabinoids on Inflammation, Symptoms of Distress and HIV Viral Load in Persons Living With HIV
Agency: NIH/NIDA
Grant number: K01DA047912
Role: Principal Investigator

b. Completed

- 2016 – 2019 Title: Postdoctoral Training Fellowship in Global AIDS Prevention Research
Agency: NIH/NIMH
Grant number: T32 MH080634 (PIs: (Currier, Gorbach)
Role: Postdoctoral Fellow
- 2016 – 2018 Title: HPTN Scholar Award: HIV Disclosure Patterns and Sexual Transmission Risk among HIV-Positive African American MSM

Agency: HPTN
Grant number: P017002026
Role: Trainee

2019 – 2022 Title: Disparities in Rates and Impact of Tobacco and Marijuana in UCLA Primary Care
Agency: Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program
Grant number: T29IR0277
Role: Co-Investigator

2015 – 2016 Title: Title: The Impact of Long-Term Marijuana Use on the Neurocognitive Functioning of
Individuals Living with HIV
Agency: NIH/NIDA
Grant number: F31DA039810
Role: Predoctoral Trainee

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

2017 – College on Problems of Drug Dependence – Member-in-training
2015 – Society for Epidemiologic Research – Member