

SHERC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Julie Baldwin, PhD

Multiple Principal Investigator, SHERC
Professor, Health Sciences
Director, Center for Health Equity Research
Northern Arizona University

For over 25 years, Dr. Baldwin has had a consistent program of applied research addressing infectious and chronic disease prevention, with a special emphasis on American Indian adolescents and their families. She continues to contribute significantly to this field of research today, as the MPI of a NIDA Research Education grant (5R25DA031103), “Institute for Translational Research in Adolescent Behavioral Health” and MPI of the “Intertribal Talking Circle for the Prevention of Substance Abuse in Native Youth” (1R01DA035143). A major theme of her work has been primary and secondary disease prevention. Other important cross-cutting themes that have characterized her work include community-based, participatory research; working with and serving marginalized populations and/or communities of color; and addressing health disparities by developing and implementing culturally competent, theory-based public health interventions. Dr. Baldwin has a long history of obtaining funding from NIH and other federal and private agencies. From 1990 to the present, Dr. Baldwin has gained extensive grant administration experience as the Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator of several large, federally funded research and center projects. For example, from January 2003 to December 2004, she served as Principal Investigator/Director of the Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention (NACP) at NAU, a U54 Cooperative Agreement between Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona (UA), funded by the National Cancer Institute (U54CA96320). The goals of this center were to (1) establish a cancer research core at NAU and a research partnership with the University of Arizona, (2) increase American Indian student recruitment into cancer-related research and educational programs, and (3) expand cancer outreach programs in tribal communities. This U54 involved overseeing more than 50 faculty, staff, and students at NAU and UA, as well as managing a budget of more than 1 million dollars per year (in direct and indirect costs). This center is now in its third cycle of funding through NCI (Ingram, PI). SHERC will work in close collaboration with NACP.

While at the University of South Florida, Dr. Baldwin served as the leader of the Community Engagement and Outreach Core of the Center for Equal Health (P20 MD003375) and most recently the MPI of a CDC-funded Prevention Research Center, U48-DP-005024-01. Dr. Baldwin’s commitment to health disparities research is also reflected in the types of service activities she has participated in over the years. At the national level, Dr. Baldwin has served a 3-year term with the NIH Study Section, the Behavior and Social Consequences of HIV (BSCH). From 2006 to 2010 she served on the NIH Community Influences on Health Behavior (CIHB) Study Section. She currently serves on the Health Services Organization and Delivery (HSOD) study section. In addition, she has had the distinction of serving on more than 35 other NIH Special Emphasis Panels and on a number of national committees and workgroups. Dr. Baldwin is currently a member of a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine’s Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice and the Roundtable on Health Equity. As an

enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation, Dr. Baldwin is passionate about American Indian health disparities research and has made a life-long commitment to serving communities of color and to advocating for culturally competent health promotion /disease prevention programs for children, youth, and families.

Diane Stearns, PhD

Multiple Principal Investigator, SHERC
Associate Vice President for Research
Professor, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
Northern Arizona University

Dr. Stearns is one of the MPIs on the SHERC U54 with Dr. Julie Baldwin, and co-leads the Investigator Development Core with Dr. Anna Schwartz. She also serves as the Associate Vice President for Research at NAU, and is a professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Her research in metal toxicology was funded by NIH, and she participated in multiple roles in the NIH-funded U54 Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention from 2002-2015, including researcher, Research Development Core Director, and lead PI. She has mentored 17 underrepresented students in research with training support from NAU's NIH-funded Initiative to Maximize Student Diversity (IMSD), Bridges and MARC programs, and NAU's NSF-funded Undergraduate Mentoring in Environmental Biology (UMEB) and Research Experience for Undergraduates programs. She has also served as a reviewer for NIH and NSF for 10 years. In her role as Associate VP for Research, Dr. Stearns is responsible for building research capacity across the institution. She is using her institutional perspective to build the quality and competitiveness of the SHERC research and pilot projects, to connect faculty with institutional resources, and to build interdisciplinary collaborations that enhance health equity research across the University.

Anna Schwartz, PhD

Investigator Development Core Co-Lead, SHERC
Professor, School of Nursing
Northern Arizona University

Dr. Schwartz's expertise is in physical activity interventions for cancer survivors to improve quality of life and reduce the acute and late side effects of treatment (e.g., fatigue, bone loss, weight change). She has experience with instrumentation development and the novel use of computer applications to deliver exercise interventions. Dr. Schwartz has served as PI, co-investigator, and consultant on numerous funded studies to promote cancer treatment tolerance, reduce side effects, and improve quality of life during and after cancer treatment. She has co-chaired the American College of Sports Medicine's roundtable that developed the first Exercise Guidelines for Cancer Survivors, and is a member of the Nutrition and Physical Activity Advisory Committee for the American Cancer Society that wrote the physical activity and nutrition guidelines for cancer prevention and cancer survivorship. Dr. Schwartz was a leading advisor in the development, implementation, and dissemination of LIVESTRONG at the YMCA and is currently involved in a CDC-funded dissemination project to increase physical activity in cancer survivors.

Robert Trotter, PhD

Research Infrastructure Core Lead, SHERC
Regents' Professor, Anthropology
Northern Arizona University

Dr. Trotter is a Regents' Professor in Anthropology, currently a Senior Scientist with the Center for Health Equity Research at NAU and the past Associate Vice President of Health Research Initiatives (HRI) at NAU. In that role, he was responsible for building health and biomedical research infrastructure at NAU; he also served as NAU's Institutional Review Board (IRB) Director. Dr. Trotter's expertise is in cross-cultural health care (intervention and prevention research), translational and population health care, program and project evaluation technology, cultural competency research, social network and systems dynamics, and ethnographic/qualitative methods. Dr. Trotter's research focus has included developing rapid assessment technologies for cross-cultural applicability research for translational and precision health-care delivery systems; creating cultural models for health-care delivery systems; addressing behavioral and biomedical population health conditions (alcoholism, drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, cancer, cardiac disease); and developing and applying systems evaluation models (partnership dynamics, quality assurance metrics, and process and outcomes evaluation models) for health-care and biomedical systems (hospitals, community engagement, public health systems). Dr. Trotter has served as PI or Project Director for NIH R01s, U01s, and T32s, and in other director and investigator roles for R21s, P20s, and U54s, and he has grant experience as PI and co-investigator on CDC and NSF grants, as well.

Paul Flikkema, PhD

Research Infrastructure Core Co-Lead, SHERC
Professor and Director, School of Informatics, Computing, and Cyber Systems
Northern Arizona University

Dr. Flikkema received his PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park in 1992. From 1993-1998 he was an Assistant Professor at the University of South Florida, and joined Northern Arizona University as an Associate Professor in January 1999, where he is currently Professor of Electrical Engineering. He has been a JSPS Visiting Researcher at Yokohama National University, a Visiting Research Scientist at Sony Computer Science Laboratories, Tokyo, and a Nokia Fellow at Helsinki University of Technology. In 2007, he co-organized a US-France Workshop on Sensor Networks and the Environment. In spring of 2008, he was a Visitor at SAMSI, where he was Program Leader of SAMSI's Program on Environmental Sensor Networks. In 2013-2014, he was Fulbright-Aalto Distinguished Chair at Aalto University. He is broadly interested in the properties of distributed natural and synthetic networked systems that sense and react to their environment, including decentralized and resilient systems. His current work includes research and education in energy-efficient embedded systems and networks, inference of the embedding environment, and wireless sensor/actuator networks for monitoring and control of environmental and ecological systems. Recently, he led the development of cyberinfrastructure for the Southwest Experimental Garden Array (SEGA), an NSF-funded facility for research on the effects of climate change on plant communities and ecosystems. While visiting Aalto University, he developed several collaborations in the area of smart electrical power grids, with a focus on distribution grids with intelligent sensing and control of dynamic loads and generation. Dr. Flikkema is also active in

engineering education innovation, where he has contributed to innovations in student learning of systems thinking and complex engineered systems.

Nicolette (Nicky) Teufel-Shone, PhD

Community Engagement Core Lead, SHERC

Professor, Health Sciences

Associate Director, Center for Health Equity Research

Northern Arizona University

Dr. Teufel-Shone provides oversight of activities of the SHERC Community Engagement Core, specifically communication with and between SHERC cores and community-based partners. She will coordinate and facilitate the strategic planning of the core partnerships, and integration of webinar and workshop activities with other SHERC Core directors and investigators. Dr. Teufel-Shone has successfully collaborated with tribal sovereign nations and immigrant border communities on health promotion program design and research in the greater Southwest for more than 25 years. More recently as a 2016 Fulbright scholar, she expanded her experience partnering with the University of Alberta and the Yellowknives Dene Nation of the Northwest Territory of Canada to develop and implement strategies to foster Indigenous youth resilience and support mental wellbeing through adolescence and young adulthood. She has worked with the Hualapai Tribal Department of Health, Education and Wellness evaluating innovative approaches to diabetes prevention and building community capacity for shifting local lifestyle norms. She has worked with Navajo Nation Division of Health, Dine College (Navajo Tribal College) and the Hopi Tribe Diabetes and Cancer Prevention Programs to develop sustainable community directed health promotion programs. With the University of Arizona College of Medicine, she served as Chair of more than 30 AI graduate students' MPH or DrPH programs and mentored several AI post-doctoral scholars participating in a T-32 NIH-NIHLB supported training program that guides junior scholars to develop R-21 applications. Her expertise in community engagement has been recognized by the National Congress of American Indians and currently she is the Director of the Community Engagement Core of the Center for Indigenous Health Research (NIH-NIEHS funded).

Samantha Sabo, DrPH, MPH

Community Engagement Core Co-Lead, SHERC

Associate Professor, Health Sciences, Center for Health Equity Research

Northern Arizona University

Dr. Sabo brings over 15 years of training, experience and partnerships with organizations serving Latino, immigrant, and indigenous communities with a research focus on the impact of community health worker (CHW) intervention and advocacy on the health equity of marginalized populations. She engages in and publishes widely on community based participatory research (CBPR), mixed, quantitative and qualitative methods and service-learning to engage community members and students to understand structural vulnerability and identify community informed approaches to advance health equity. She developed these skills and organizational partnerships overtime – beginning as a Fellow to the US-Mexico Border Health Commission, the Director for Transborder Initiatives (2007-2014), and as a long-time investigator with the CDC

funded Arizona Prevention Research Center (2007-2017). She currently Co-Leads the NIMHD/Research Center in Minority Institutions Program's Southwest Health Equity Research Collaborative, Community Engagement Core at Northern Arizona University. Her research spans both chronic and maternal and child health. She has served as the MPI of an NIH/NHLBI R01 implementation science study to improve chronic disease outcomes at the US-Mexico border and PI to a statewide longitudinal evaluation of the longest standing CHW home visiting program – Health Start - in Arizona and co-leads a Border States Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (ColIN) to improve infant mortality in the Arizona border region. More recently, she has broadened her research scope to advance smoke-free advocacy and policy efforts with American Indian populations of the US Southwest and Northern Plains through a robust partnership with the Black Hills Center for American Indian Health, specifically as Co-I to an NIH/NCI U01 (2012-2016), an NIH R01 (2017-2021) and an NIH funded Native American Research Centers for Health (2017-2021). Dr. Sabo remains a leader in the Community Health Worker workforce policy by co-founding two statewide coalitions the Arizona CHW Workforce Coalition and the Community Health Representative Movement - to advance and broadly engage CHW stakeholders and Arizona's 19 Tribal CHW programs in workforce development and policy efforts.

Kelly Laurila, MA

Evaluator, SHERC

Senior Coordinator, Anthropology

Northern Arizona University

Kelly Laurila is responsible for (1) administering the general operations of the SHERC U54 evaluation unit, (2) overseeing the development of the evaluation plan and feedback system, (3) implementing the integrated evaluation plan in collaboration with the MPIs, (4) reporting programmatic progress to governance including U54 administration, the Advisory Committee, and RCMI Translational Research Network (RTRN), (5) overseeing analysis and reporting of the organizational aspects of the logic model plus evaluation plan, and (6) assisting in the dissemination of effective interventions and best practices. She will oversee the development and execution of the logic model (query-based and process-based) evaluation and monitoring of the U54 Program. She will oversee the evaluation team including a consultant for special projects, and the Evaluation Coordinator, who will manage the daily operation of the evaluation program including data collection, management and report preparation. Ms. Laurila has a Master's degree in Applied Anthropology, and 10 years of experience conducting program evaluation. She has evaluated federally funded centers and partnerships including an NIMHD P20 Center, MHIRT T37, and CPC Post Doc R25 Program. In addition to the SHERC U54 program, she currently conducts evaluation for (1) NCI funded U54 Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention, (2) NIMHD funded Bridging Arizona Native American Students to Bachelor's Degrees, and (3) NSF Diné College STEM 2020 (TCUP ICE-TI). She is committed to providing stakeholder feedback to inform program change and data driven decision making.