



Dr. Clarence
Spigner

DrPH, MPH, BA

Dr. Clarence Spigner serves as Director of the MPH and MS Programs in Health Services. Spigner's teaching and research interests are in the health of disadvantage populations, race & ethnic relations, and the intersections of popular culture's influence. His primary and critical focus is in community based research and the inherent contradictions of race, gender, and structural inequalities within institutions of health and medicine. His publications include, but are not limited to tobacco-related behavior, organ donation & transplantation, stress and coping strategies, and intra-ethnic tensions.

Research Interests: Tobacco-related behavior, racism as a stressor, social construction of 'race,' organ donation among ethnic groups, program evaluation, popular culture

Augusto Barón Cruz

MD



“Not saying I can be bribed,
but dark chocolate is a
thing.”

Dr. Augusto Barón is a MD from Honduras with over ten years of experience leading youth action in public health in the local and international scene through cooperation with a variety of NGOs, international agencies, and organizations including the Pan American Health Organization and the Japan International Cooperation Agency. He has been an advocate for mental health, NCD prevention, emotional intelligence learning, and antimicrobial resistance prevention. He founded the community initiative ColectivoSalud in Honduras, is an AMR committee of the Young World Federation of Public Health Associations co-lead, and serves as a youth advocate at the Quadripartite Working Group on Youth Engagement on AMR managed by the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat. He believes that the public health community will only thrive through cooperation, which should not only be horizontal but also vertical, to share knowledge and skills that may help your future colleagues to grow while also allowing your self to reflect from a different perspective.

Areas of Expertise: Public health project design and management, monitoring and evaluation, non-experimental research, youth engagement



Tia Babu

MD, MSc

Tia Babu is an adult infectious diseases physician and Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. She earned her medical degree from Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine, completed her internal medicine residency at the University of Massachusetts, and pursued an infectious diseases fellowship at the University of Rochester Medical Center. She further specialized with a fellowship in Transplant and Immunocompromised Host Infectious Diseases at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Babu's research focuses on understanding the immunology of vaccine responses to pathogens of public health significance and advancing innovations to improve these responses. She is an active investigator within the NIH-funded Vaccine Treatment Evaluation Unit (VTEU) at UW. She has acted as a principal investigator or co-investigator in over 15 clinical trials. She served as the UW principal investigator for the COVID-19 Variant Immunologic Landscape (COVAIL) clinical trial, which assessed the safety and immunogenicity of prototype and SARS-CoV-2 variant vaccines. Additionally, Dr. Babu is a program chair for the NIH-funded Next Generation COVID-19 Vaccine Program.





Rebecca Villa

MPH, PhD in Pathobiology
Student

Rebecca Villa received her undergraduate degrees in Biology and Anthropology from Grinnell College. Then, she obtained her MPH in Epidemiology with a Certificate in Emerging Infectious Diseases from the University of Iowa in the undergrad-to-grad 4+1 program. She then completed a 1-year Association of Public Health Laboratories infectious disease fellowship at the State Hygienic Laboratory where Villa gained experience developing automated lab-developed assays. Now, she is a 3rd year student in the PhD in Pathobiology program. Rebecca currently researches with the Soge Lab based at Harborview Medical Center. Her research focuses on *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, antimicrobial resistance, microbial interactions, and cell and animal models for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infection. She is passionate about microbiology, infectious diseases, and public health laboratory research. She hopes to serve as a resource for students in public health who are interested in transitioning to wet-lab research. She is very familiar with the transition from epidemiology to microbiology as well as the path towards a career in public health laboratories.

Can offer: advice on career goals, internships, reviewing personal statements or resumes, sharing my career path, discussing the pros/cons of graduate school and wet-lab research, navigating academia as an FG/LI and POC student