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Institute for Health Policy
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CURRENT POSITION

2008-present **Faculty Associate.** Institute for Health Policy, University of Texas School of Public Health, Health Science Center at Houston, Texas.

- Project Manager of *“Health of Houston Survey 2014-2015”*.

Duties

- Design and plan the implementation of the second round of the survey
- Layout the key elements of the survey design and sample
- Draft the Request for Proposals for selecting a survey contractor
- Initiate and oversee the questionnaire development

- Project Coordinator of *“Analytical Strategies for Assessing Cumulative Effects of Chemical and Nonchemical Stressors”*, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Duties

- Coordination of project-related activities and assuring that deadlines are met as scheduled.
- Preparation of environmental datasets for the analytical models; air toxics exposure concentrations, cancer and non-cancer risks from the EPA’s National Air Toxics Assessments, as well as criteria pollutant concentrations for multiple study years.
- Preparation of scales and demographic, behavioral, social, and health indicators from the survey instrument employed in the study.
- Collaborate in final report writing and in successive publications.

- Project Manager of *“Health of Houston Survey 2010”*, funded by Houston Endowment, Inc.

Duties

- Responsible for directing, overseeing and managing all survey project-related activities
- Scheduling and planning of survey tasks
- Budget review, evaluation and adjustments
- Develop relations with survey stakeholders that provide input to survey development and its instruments
- Develop and maintain very close and frequent communication with survey contractor and oversee the quality and timely delivery of contracted services and deliverables
- Oversee and contribute to questionnaire development and survey communication materials design and production
- Oversee through relations with contractor, data collection and timely delivery of the dataset

- Organize and supervise the day-to-day work of the research and staff team ensuring that project's deadlines are continually met. Team composed of 1 faculty associate, 1 research associate and 3 part-time graduate research assistants.

FORMER POSITIONS

2006-07 **Consultant**, Institute for Health Policy, University of Texas School of Public Health, Health Science Center at Houston, Texas. Contributed to scientific peer-review article preparation.

2005-06 **Senior Research Assistant**, Institute for Health Policy, University of Texas School of Public Health, Health Science Center at Houston, Texas.

Duties

- Acted as coordinator of the research team in conducting the Mayor's Task Force on the Health Effects of Air Pollution, commissioned by Mayor Bill White of the City of Houston, Texas.
- Responsible for keeping track and accurate implementation of the Task Force's recommendations
- Responsible for timely completion of each project phase and delivery of intermediate and final products/reports
- Gathered, cleaned and prepared databases of environmental air toxic compounds as well as criteria pollutants for analysis.
- Conducted analysis with environmental data and participated and oversaw the final report preparation

2005 **Research Assistant**, Institute for Health Policy, University of Texas School of Public Health, Health Science Center at Houston, Texas.

2004 **Collaborator**, Field data processing for the project: *Sacred Vocation - Transforming Work in Health Care*, funded by Episcopal Health Charities. University of Texas School of Public Health, Health Science Center at Houston, Texas.

2003-04 **Volunteer**, Bibliographic research in: Aday, L.A., (Ed.). *Reinventing Public Health. Policies and Practices for a Healthy Nation*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey Bass, 2005. University of Texas School of Public Health, Health Science Center at Houston, Texas.

2003 **Collaborator**, Project: *Evidence-based Health Surveillance*. Occupational Health Unit, University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain.

2002-03 **Research Associate**, CREB (Centre de Recerca en Economia del Benestar) Research Center in Welfare Economics, Faculty of Economics, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.

1999 **Medical Officer and Project Coordinator**, ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) in Tirana, Albania.

- Public Health Education Mother & Child Survival project in Sharra, Albania.
- Integrated Assistance for Kosovar Refugees, in partnership with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and World Food Program (WFP).

PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Public health policy analysis
- Social epidemiology
- Environmental pollution research
 - Adverse effects to health
 - Social impact and inequitable distribution across socioeconomic groups
 - Implications for environmental justice and policy formulation
- Population-based health surveys
- Research translation and dissemination

EDUCATION

- 2003 **Master in Health Economics & Health Care Management.** Thesis on *“Triple versus quadruple first-line therapy in Helicobacter pylori eradication. Strategy in peptic ulcer: A clinical and cost-effectiveness study”*, IDEC (Institute of Continuing Education), University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain.
- 1998 **Medical Doctor**, Faculty of Medicine, University of Tirana, Faculty of Medicine, "Mother Teresa" University Hospital Center of Tirana, Albania.

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

- 2011 “Write winning grants seminar” by M.S. AtKisson. Grant writers’ seminars and workshops in association with UT Health Science Center at Houston, Houston, Texas.
- 2009 Workshops at 26th Annual Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance National Conference, Atlanta, Georgia:
 - Introduction to Survey Methodology
 - Methodological Issues in Conducting Multimode Surveys
 - Weighting Methods
- 2009 Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Training. Texas Department of State Health Services, Austin, Texas.
- 2005 Mapping Texas Communities Workshop. An Introduction to GIS & Community Analysis, New Urban Research, Houston, Texas.
- 2000 Courses at XVIII Annual Graduate Summer Institute of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Hygiene and Public Health, The Johns Hopkins University - Baltimore, Maryland.
 - Principles of Epidemiology
 - Statistics Reasoning in Public Health I
 - Statistics Reasoning in Public Health II

COMPUTER SKILLS

GIS mapping software (ArcMap, ArcCatalog), Stata, SSPS, MS Office, Adobe Illustrator.

AWARDS

- **Best Master Thesis Award**, Master of Health Economics and Health Care Management, Institute of Continuing Education (IDEC), University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain.
- **XIV Award of Best Occupational Health Article**. Catalan Society of Medicine and Safety at the Workplace. "Psychosocial work risk factors and sickness absence: Work-related and non-work-related reasons in Spain". Barcelona, Spain, November 28, 2002.

LANGUAGES

- **Albanian** - native speaker
- **English** - fluent
- **Spanish** - fluent
- **Catalan** - fluent
- **Italian** - working knowledge

PUBLICATIONS**Journal Articles** (Peer-Reviewed)

- Cooper SP, Alamgir AH, Whitworth KW, Gorrell NS, Betancourt JA, Cornell JE, Delclos G, Douphrate DI, Gimeno D, **Marko D**, Kim SY, Sagiraju HR, Tucker DL, Whitehead LW, Won NJ, Hammill TL, Senchak AJ, Packer MD. The Department of Defense Epidemiologic and Economic Burden of Hearing Loss Study. *Mil Med.* (In press).
- Linder SH, **Marko D**, and Sexton K. Cumulative cancer risk from air pollution in Houston: Disparities in risk burden and social disadvantage. *Environmental Science & Technology* 2008; 42(12):4312-22.
- Sexton K, Linder SH, **Marko D**, Bethel H, and Lupo PJ. Comparative assessment of air pollution-related health risks in Houston. *Environ Health Perspect* 2007;115:1388-93.
- **Marko D**, Calvet X, Ducons J, Guardiola J, Tito L, Bory F, and the GRESCA (Group for Eradication Studies from Catalonia and Aragón. Comparison of two management strategies for H. pylori treatment: A clinical study and a cost effectiveness analysis. *Helicobacter* 2005;10(1):22-32.
- Gimeno D, **Marko D**, Martínez JM. Psychosocial work risk factors and sickness absence: work-related and non-work-related reasons in Spain. *Arch Prev Riesgos Labor* 2003;6:139-145.

Under review

- **Marko D**, Linder SH, Tullar JM, Reynolds TF, Estes L. Predictors of serious psychological distress in urban communities: Results from the "Health of Houston" population survey.

In preparation

- Tullar JM, **Marko D**, Linder SH, Reynolds TF. Does the county hospital district “safety-net” system reduce healthcare access disparities?
- Estes L, Tullar JM, **Marko D**, Linder SH, Reynolds TF. Racial-ethnic disparities in mental health services need among adults in the Houston area.

PRESENTATIONS

- *Creating an informed network of community partners.* Tullar TM, Marko D, Estes LJ, Reynolds TF, and Linder SH. Oral presentation at American Public Health Association Conference, 2011, Washington, D.C.
- *Mental health status and access among adults in the Houston area.* Estes LJ, Tullar TM, Marko D, Reynolds TF and Linder SH. Poster at the American Public Health Association Conference, 2011, Washington, D.C.
- *Health of Houston 2010 Survey: A comprehensive survey of Houston and Harris County.* Over 40 presentations to Texas-based organizations, among others at Harris County Healthcare Alliance, Texas Medical Center, Greater Houston Partnership, Texas Economic & Demographic Association, Housing and Community Development Stakeholder’s meeting, 2011-2012.
- *Dissemination platforms for the Health of Houston Survey data and results in “Survey data access and public availability: European and Texas experience.”* VIIth Workshop of the Central American Survey of Working Conditions. Center for Research in Occupational Health (CISAL), University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain, September 27-28, 2012.

TECHNICAL REPORTS (as coauthor or part of research team)

- *Summary Indicators from the Health of Houston Survey 2010. Community-based Strategies to Address Health and Wellness in Houston.* Report prepared for the City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services, July 2012.
- *Health of Houston Survey 2010: A First Look.* Houston, TX: Institute for Health Policy, the University of Texas School of Public Health, November 2011. Available at www.hhs2010.net
- *Clean Air Benefits Estimation Project: Estimating Benefits of Prospective Reductions in Benzene and 1,3-Butadiene in Houston.* Funded by Houston Endowment and conducted in collaboration with Rice University and Industrial Economics, Inc., September 2009.
- *A closer look at air pollution in Houston: Identifying priority health risks. Report of the Mayor’s Task Force on the Health Effects of Air Pollution.* Commissioned by the Mayor Bill White of the City of Houston, Texas. June 2006. Available at: <http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/ihp/content.asp?id=2517>

- *Education and health: A review and assessment*. In 'Code Red. The Critical Conditions of Health in Texas', by the Task Force on Access to Health Care in Texas. April 2006. Available at: <http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/research/centers/ihp/>
- *Health effect databases: Mayor's task force on the health effects of air pollution*. Institute for Health Policy. The University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston, December 2005. Available at: <http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/research/centers/ihp/>
- [Evidence-based health surveillance]. Original in Spanish: Serra C, Benavides FG, Plana M, Vila M. *Vigilancia de la salud basada en la evidencia*. Barcelona: Cátedra MC MUTUAL UPF de Medicina del Trabajo, 2004.
- [How equal are the benefits of the European public health care systems from the perspective of consumers? Development of a synthetic index to measure it]. Original in Spanish: Rodríguez M, Meneu R, Dedeu T, Marko D. *Iguals pero diferentes. Estudio comparativo de las carteras de prestaciones sanitarias públicas en la Unión Europea, atendiendo a las especificidades relevantes para los usuarios*. Barcelona, FUSEE, 2004.
- Burnham G, Marko D. *Establishing health services for Kosovars relocated to southwestern Albania*. Prepared for ADRA (Adventist Development Relief Agency), Albania, April – May 1999.

SERVICE

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| 2013 | Reviewer for Texas Public Health Journal |
| 2008-11 | Member of Health Surveys User Group, Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Texas Department of State Health Services, Austin, Texas. |
| 2009-10 | Participant in the 4 th and 5 th Annual State and Local Health Surveys "Breakfast of Champions" meetings, held respectively in Philadelphia, 2009 and in Denver, Colorado, 2010 during Annual American Public Health Association Conference. |
| 1995-98 | Member of medical student club "Galen". Participant in health promotion activities such as drug abuse and high-risk communicable diseases awareness. Organizer of awareness sessions at high schools in Tirana regarding youth-related risk behaviors. |

FUNDED RESEARCH

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| 2013-15 | Health of Houston Survey 2014-2015. A population-based survey of the health of residents in Houston and Harris County. Funded by Houston Endowment, Inc. Role: Co-investigator & Project Manager, 80% (Principal Investigator: Stephen Linder, Ph.D., UTSPH). |
| 2012-14 | Clinical Investigation of Hearing Injuries, Noise Exposures, and Cost Burden In Active Duty US Military Service Members. Funded by Air Force - Research Lab. Period: 2012-2013. Total costs: USD 1,228,632. Role: Co-Investigator, 5% (Principal Investigator: Sharon C. Cooper, Ph.D., UTSPH). |

- 2012-2014 Colombia-Texas GEOHealth Hub Collaborative. Funding by NIH Fogarty International Center (R24). Total costs: USD 100,000. Role: **Co-investigator, 5%** (Principal Investigator: David Gimeno, Ph.D., UTSPH).
- 2010-13 Analytical Strategies for Assessing Cumulative Effects of Chemical and Nonchemical Stressors. Funded by Environmental Protection Agency, EPA-G2009-STAR-E1: Developing Statistical and Other Analytical Techniques for Cumulative Risk Assessments. Role: **Co-investigator & Project Coordinator, 20%** (Principal Investigator: Stephen Linder, Ph.D., UTSPH).
- 2008-11 Health of Houston Survey 2010. Comprehensive, population-based survey of the health of residents in Houston and Harris County. Funded by Houston Endowment, Inc. Role: **Co-investigator & Project Manager, 80%-100%** (Principal Investigator: Stephen Linder, Ph.D., UTSPH).
- 2008-09 Clean air benefit estimates project. Estimating the benefits of prospective reductions in Benzene and 1,3-Butadiene in Houston. Funded by Houston Endowment, Inc. Role: **Co-investigator, 20%** (Principal Investigator: Stephen Linder, Ph.D., UTSPH).