



CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY
Mary Ann Swetland Center
for Environmental Health

The Swetland Scoop

January 2026

Our mission is to accelerate pathways to vibrant and healthy environments through collaborative research, immersive training, and authentic community engagement.



News & Announcements

Meet the Swetland Faculty Affiliates (Service Term: 2026-2027)

Click [here](#) to learn more about the range of expertise offered by faculty affiliates of the Swetland Center. These faculty contribute expertise from the fields of medicine, public health, sociology, public policy, geography, engineering, law, social work, and agricultural sciences to enhance the center's research, training, and community engagement initiatives.

1. **John Pastor Ansah, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Center for Community Health Integration, Case Western Reserve University

2. **Ther W. Aung, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Population Health Research Institute, The MetroHealth System; School of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University
 3. **Jill Clark, PhD, MS**, Professor, John Glenn College of Public Affairs, Ohio State University
 4. **Andrew Curtis, PhD**, Professor of Spatial Epidemiology, Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, School of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University
 5. **Jacqueline Curtis, PhD, MA**, Associate Professor, Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, School of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University
 6. **Jarrold Dalton, PhD**, Staff, Department of Quantitative Health Sciences, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Cleveland Clinic; Associate Professor of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University
 7. **Robert L. Fischer, PhD**, Grace Longwell Coyle Professor in Civil Society & Director, Center on Poverty & Community Development, Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University
 8. **Bridget Hegarty, PhD, MS**, Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Case Western Reserve University
 9. **Miranda Leppla, JD**, Director, Environmental Law Clinic, School of Law, Case Western Reserve University
 10. **Allison Lukacsy-Love, MA, AICP, AIA**, Director, Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, Kent State University
 11. **Adam Perzynski, PhD, MA**, Professor of Medicine and Sociology, Center for Healthcare Research and Policy, MetroHealth; Department of Sociology, Case Western Reserve University
 12. **Brandy Phipps, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Central State University
 13. **Francisca García-Cobián Richter, PhD**, Research Associate Professor, Center on Poverty and Community Development, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University
 14. **Ashwini Sehgal, MD, MS**, Professor, Population Health Research Institute, The MetroHealth System
 15. **Kurt Stange, MD, PhD**, Professor, Center for Community Health Integration, Department of Population and Qualitative Health Sciences, Case Western Reserve University
 16. **Colleen Walsh, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Health Sciences and Human Performance, Cleveland State University
 17. **Peter Whitehouse, PhD, MA**, Professor, Department of Neurology, Case Western Reserve University
 18. **Xiong (Bill) Yu, PhD**, Chair and Frank H. Neff Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Case Western Reserve University
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Events & Opportunities

Upcoming Swetland Seminars

Partnering with NEO QI Hub for Produce Prescription (PRx) Expansion: Lessons from the Produce Path Coupon Program

- Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026
- Time: 9:00-10:00 AM
- Location: Virtual (Zoom)

- Panelists: Mamie Priestly, Owusua Yamoah, PhD, MA, Shari Bolen, MD, MPH & Traci Singree
- Moderator: Darcy Freedman, PhD, MPH

This panel presentation will focus on implementation and impact of a technology-enhanced produce prescription (PRx) program offered at 13 primary care sites in Northeast Ohio in 2025. The program provided \$100 coupons to 431 Medicaid/Medicare patients for fruit and vegetable purchases at 7 farmers markets in Northeast Ohio.

[Register Here](#)

Housing and Infant Health: Targeted Investment and Meaningful Engagement

- Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026
- Time: 9:00-10:00 AM
- Location: Virtual (Zoom)
- Speakers:
 - Deena Chisolm, PhD
 - Kierra Barnett, PhD, MPH

This NICHD funded study seeks to richly describe the history of structural discrimination and racism in the Linden neighborhood of Columbus, Ohio and to study whether integrating that knowledge into housing development initiatives can create intentionally reparative community improvements resulting in improvements in maternal and child health outcomes.

[Register Here](#)

Save the Date: Environmental Health Connector Spring Event

Join us for dinner, conversation, connection, and re-commitment to envisioning a world where environments are designed to promote holistic health for everyone.

- Date: Tuesday, April 29th, 2026
- Time: 5:00 - 7:00 PM
- Location: MidTown Collaboration Center

Keynote Speaker

Angela Odoms-Young, PhD
Nancy Schlegel Meinig Associate Professor of Maternal and Child Nutrition
Cornell University



*Registration details coming soon.

Hot off the Press

[Check out our Latest Publications](#)

Swetland Center Faculty, Staff, and Trainees are in Bold.

Conrey SC, Payne DC, Leon MD, Epperson M, Coughlin MM, Burrell AR, Mattison CP, Burke RM, Baker JM, Thornburg NJ, McMorrow ML, Staat MA, Morrow AL. [Optimizing the sensitivity of detection of respiratory syncytial virus infections in longitudinal studies using the combination of weekly sample testing and biannual serology](#). Am J Epidemiol. 2025 Dec 9;.

Teoh Z, Midgley CM, **Conrey S**, Burrell A, White B, Mattison CP, McMorrow ML, Schlaudecker EP, Vawter-Lee M, Morrow AL, Payne DC, Staat MA. [Burden of Disease and Spectrum of Illness From Enterovirus-D68 Infections in US Children 0-2 Years of Age From a Longitudinal Community-Based Cohort, 2017-2019](#). J Pediatric Infect Dis Soc. 2025 Aug 7;14(7).

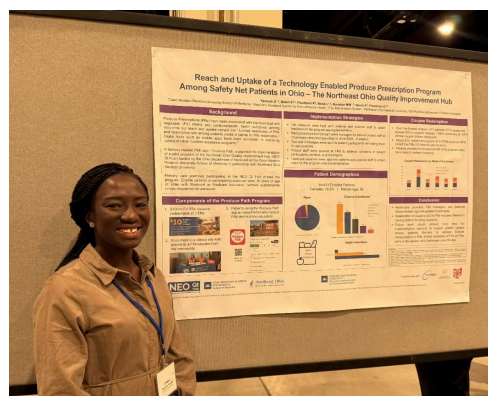
Mendy, A, Hines, EP, Dixon, A, Pinney, SM, **Conrey, SC**, Cetinkaya, H, Staat, MA, Morrow, AL; [Concentrations and Estimated Daily Intake of Legacy and Emerging PFAS in the Milk of Women Residing in the Greater Cincinnati Area](#). medRxiv 2025.12.05.25341559.

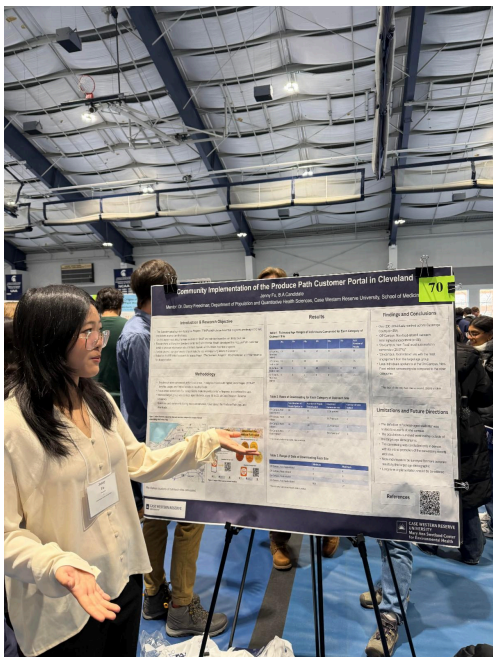
Chutipongtanate, S., Kongsomros, S., Cetinkaya, H., Zhang, X., Kuhnell, D., Benefield, D., Haffey, W. D., Wyder, M. A., Kwatra, G., **Conrey, S. C.**, Burrell, A. R., Langevin, S. M., Esfandiari, L., Newburg, D. S., Greis, K. D., Staat, M. A., & Morrow, A. L. (2025). [Prenatal SARS-CoV-2 Infection Alters Human Milk-Derived Extracellular Vesicles](#). Cells, 14(4), 284.

Conference Highlights

18th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation, National Harbor, MD

Dr. Owusua Yamoah presented a poster in December 2025 focused on “*Reach and Uptake of a Technology Enabled Produce Prescription Program Among Safety Net Patients in Ohio – The Northeast Ohio Quality Improvement Hub*.” The poster highlighted results from a produce prescription program implemented by the Swetland Center with partners from the Northeast Ohio Quality Improvement Hub, which supported 400+ low-income patients from 13 primary care sites in northeast Ohio.





25th Fall Intersections Poster Symposium, Cleveland, OH

Jenny Fu, a CWRU undergraduate and Swetland Center intern, presented her poster, "*Community Implementation of the Produce Path Customer Portal in Cleveland*," resulting from her summer internship funded by the CWRU Undergraduate Research Office. Working under the mentorship of Dr. Darcy Freedman and Dr. Owusua Yamoah, Jenny examined dissemination strategies for increasing awareness about healthy food access resources among college-aged youth.

SNAP-ED: The Neighbors' Cookbook

Check out the [From the Shelves: The Neighbors' Cookbook](#) with tips for making delicious and nutritious meals on a budget. Click [here](#) to explore more recipes.

The Swetland Center partnered with The Ohio State University Extension to provide SNAP-Ed in Cuyahoga County from 2024-2025. The program is currently on pause due to a change in federal funding.



What is SNAP-Ed?

SNAP-Ed was a free, evidence based nutrition education program serving individuals eligible to receive SNAP benefits or other means-tested federal assistance programs throughout Ohio. The program provides education to help people make their SNAP dollars stretch, learn how to shop for and cook healthy meals, and lead physically active lifestyles. SNAP-Ed initiatives include nutrition education classes, social marketing campaigns, and efforts to improve policies, systems, and the environment of communities.

Swetland Spotlight

Dr. Shannon Walker



Congratulations to Dr. Walker on her new faculty position at The Ohio State University, School of Medicine starting in January 2026. Dr. Walker completed a 2.5 year post-doctoral fellowship with the Swetland Center successfully earning a slot in the CTSC's T32 Post-doctoral Training Grant Program and the CWRU School of Medicine Dean's Scholars Program. We look forward to future collaborations as Dr. Walker expands her career focused on the intersections between environmental and social drivers and maternal and child health.



Mary Ann Swetland Center | 1974 E. 66th Street Suite 300 | Cleveland, OH 44103 US

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