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MARY ANN SWETLAND
CENTER FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Swetland Scoop

October 2020

We Are Hiring!

Job Opportunities at the Swetland Center!

Research Associate: Qualitative Research Core

The Mary Ann Swetland Center for Environmental Health in the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine has a fulltime position available for a Research Associate to provide leadership to its robust and multifaceted Qualitative Research Core. The position will provide leadership to the Center's collaborative research portfolio at the intersection of the complex interplay between the environment and health in the areas of food systems as well as COVID-19 and child health. Successful candidates will have at least 5 years of experience in advanced qualitative study design, data collection and analysis, and reporting within the context of collaborative and community-engaged population health research.

The research assistant is a full time position that will be responsible for coordinating major activities of the Mary Ann Swetland Center. Specifically, the research assistant will be responsible for developing, implementing, training, and disseminating new and innovative community-engaged research techniques involving a high degree of skill and training. This position will contribute to several active studies within the Center's robust research portfolio focused on the complex interplay between the environment and human health with a focus on translating these findings to advance environmental health equity. We are hiring one person for this position. Two job descriptions are available. Please review both to identify the one that best meets your background and experience.

Have an opportunity you'd like us to feature in our next newsletter?

We are accepting content submissions! You can find the submission form [here](#).

News & Announcements

Accepted Article: Emergency food provision for children and families during the COVID-19 pandemic: Examples from five U.S. cities

Swetland Center Director, Darcy Freedman, PhD, MPH, and two faculty affiliates, Jill Clark, PhD, and Colleen Walsh, PhD, recently published an article on food system responses to COVID-19. The article, "Emergency food provision for children and families during the COVID-19 pandemic: Examples from five U.S. cities," was accepted to the Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy Journal in September 2020. With support from a supplemental grant from the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, 13 food system researchers from across the U.S. collaborated on this important qualitative case study that provides key insights into emergency food provisions implemented in five cities. Cleveland was one of the cities included in this case study that revealed the need for cross-sector collaborations and nimble supply chains that specifically target gaps in service for populations at risk for food insecurity. Read the full article [here](#).

Qualitative Research Happening at the Swetland Center

As we all navigate life during the novel coronavirus, those of us working in research have also had to navigate how to adapt our research to accommodate for social/physical distancing, safe data collection, and going virtual. The Swetland Center values the community voices that contribute to our qualitative research and we emphasize a community-based participatory research approach. We want to highlight three projects within the Center continuing their qualitative work during this pandemic:



- **[Ohio COVID-19 Child Care Study](#)**: This study is designed to better understand how to lower the spread of COVID-19 and lessen the impact of COVID-19 among families and staff affiliated with child care programs in the state. The research team has multiple **[study activities](#)** – all of which have been designed to be virtual – including holding focus groups and interviews over Zoom.
- **[Ohio Produce Perks Statewide Evaluation](#)**: Produce Perks, Ohio SNAP Incentive Program, began operating at retail stores across the state in 2018. The CWRU Research team is conducting case studies at participating retail sites across Ohio to better understand the core elements that make the program successful. In the first year of data collection, in-person focus groups were held with people receiving SNAP. These have since transitioned to virtual individual interviews with SNAP customers and Produce Perks program users.
- **[Building Capacity for Obesity Prevention](#)**: Interviews will be conducted with SNAP-Ed practitioners as well as SNAP & SNAP Eligible residents in up to 10 counties. The goal of these interviews is to 1) Identify factors influencing implementation of community nutrition programming in schools and 2) Identify how COVID-19 is impacting community nutrition experiences and interventions strategies.

Be sure to keep up with Swetland news through our online [News & Events](#) page!

Events & Opportunities

**Swetland Seminar Series: Moving Upstream to
Identify and Act on Environmental Drivers of Inequities in Child
Asthma and Overall Child Health**
October 27th, 2020 | 9–10 am

Join presenter Andrew F. Beck, MD, MPH of Cincinnati Children's & University of Cincinnati, Department of Pediatrics to learn more about the known and persistent equity gaps in child health outcomes, and how children's hospitals (in partnership with patients, families, and communities) can help to narrow those gaps by improving outcomes in equitable ways. [Learn more](#) or register [here](#).

Ohio Food Policy Network Summit
November 16th, 2020 | 1–4 pm



[Save the date](#) for the 10th Annual Ohio Food Policy Summit. This event will be held virtually and is open to anyone who wants to see a strong regional food system in Ohio. Additionally OFPN will be hosting the Ohio Local Food Council Workshop on November 17th, from 4 – 6 p.m.

Swetland Spotlight

Research from Faculty Affiliate, Kristie Ross, MD, MS

"Effect of Vitamin D3 Supplementation on Severe Asthma Exacerbations in Children With Asthma and Low Vitamin D Levels: The VDKA Randomized Clinical Trial" was published in The Journal of the American Medical Association in August 2020. The objective of this study was to determine whether vitamin D3 supplementation improves the time to a severe exacerbation in children with asthma and low vitamin D



levels. The findings do not support the use of vitamin D3 supplementation to prevent severe asthma exacerbations in this group of patients. Read the full article [here](#).



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