

## **Academic Health Department**

### **Benjamin Vickers, PhD**

Dr. Benjamin Vickers will serve as the epidemiologist/biostatistician for the Academic Health Department. Dr. Vickers received his PhD in Population Health Sciences from the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX. He received a Master of Science in Applied Sociology from Texas State University, San Marcos, TX and a Bachelor of Arts in Engineering (Civil Concentration) from Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX. He has served as an Assistant Professor of Health at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas teaching courses in epidemiology, research methods, and topics in public health and health education. Most recently, he has served as Injury Epidemiologist-Advanced with the New Mexico Department of Health. His research focus is chronic disease epidemiology using large datasets including health surveys, insurance claims data, census data, and vital statistics. Funded research activities have involved chronic disease epidemiology in multi-ethnic samples of older adults and Mexican American adults. He worked closely for several years with the Principal Investigator, Dr. Kyriakos Markides, and co-investigators of the Hispanic Established Population for the Epidemiologic Study of the Elderly (H-EPESE) longitudinal cohort study.

### **Kim Wu, PhD (c)**

Kim Wu, PhD (c) is a dedicated community health professional born and raised in Queens, New York. Kim has over 10 years of experience in education, community centered health programs management, grassroots development, social justice, and capacity building to foster cross-sector collaboration in projects of health promotion, sexual health education, and mental health. After completing her Master of Public Health from University of California, Berkeley in 2018, she has channeled her interest in public health and education to work on a national project with the Centers for Disease Control's Division of Adolescent and School Based Health, supporting major school districts across the country in their efforts to develop safe and inclusive school environments to promote adolescent well-being and health. Kim's research interest includes exploring innovative methodologies that value community participation and center the voices of those historically marginalized. She has a specialized interest in the role of culture and local knowledge, and how partnerships can be developed to value and respect the experiences at the local level. With her degree, Kim hopes to pursue teaching and opportunities to promote systems level change by advancing the role of community health workers, health education, and local networks of practitioners involved in the landscape of health promotion. Kim is also a trained post-partum doula and enjoys craft projects and speculative tales of imaginative possibilities.

### **Melissa L. Rethlefsen, MSLS, AHIP**

Melissa L. Rethlefsen, MSLS, AHIP is Executive Director and Professor at the Health Sciences Library & Informatics Center, University of New Mexico. She previously worked at the Health Science Center Libraries at the University of Florida, Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library at the University of Utah, Mayo Clinic's Learning Resource Center, the Minnesota Department of Health RN Barr Library, and the University of Minnesota Bio-Medical Library. In her current role, Melissa oversees all aspects of the Health Sciences Library & Informatics Center. Melissa has received many awards for her work in medical librarianship, including receiving the Estelle Brodman Award for Academic Medical Librarian of the Year in 2015. Her research currently focuses on systematic review methodology and reporting, particularly on improving reproducibility and quality.

### **Gale G. Hannigan, PhD, MPH, MLS**

Gale G. Hannigan, PhD, MPH, MLS is a Research Professor and Research Services Librarian at the UNM Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center. She received her MLS from the University of California Berkeley, her MPH from the University of Texas at Houston, and her PhD in Information Science, with an emphasis in Medical Informatics, from the University of North Texas. She also has a Certificate in Journalism from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She previously was employed at the Houston

Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library, the University of Minnesota Bio-Medical Library, the Upjohn Pharmaceutical Company, and the Texas A&M Medical Sciences Library from where she retired as a Full Professor with tenure. She is an emeritus member of the Medical Library Association's (MLA) Academy of Health Information Professionals and has received MLA's Institute for Scientific Information Doctoral Fellowship Award, the Estelle Brodman Award for Academic Medical Librarian of the Year, the Lucretia W. McClure Excellence in Education Award, the President's Award to the Task Force to Review MLA's Competencies for Lifelong Learning and Professional Success (chair), and the Outstanding Alumni Award from the University of North Texas, Department of Information Science. She has co-authored a book, several book chapters, and many peer-reviewed articles with an emphasis on health sciences informatics education.

**Doreen Bird, PhD, MPH**

Doreen Bird, PhD, MPH graduated with her Master's in Public Health from UNM and her PhD in Justice Studies from Arizona State University's School of Social Transformation. A former NIMH research fellow, under the direction of Drs. Philip May, Tassy Parker and Kamilla Venner, she gained experience in research at UNM Center on Alcohol, Substance Abuse and Addictions (CASAA). Her research focus has been in the areas of Substance Abuse and Suicide prevention among American Indian populations. Her current focus is on co-developing a New Mexico specific Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) training with Dr. Nina Wallerstein. Dr. Bird is from Santo Domingo Pueblo, NM, is mother of 6 children, she speaks her Native language and maintains deep cultural connections to her Puebloan ancestry.