



# epibio news

DEPARTMENT of EPIDEMIOLOGY and BIOSTATISTICS

## Inaugural Claudia Holzman Seminar in Women's and Reproductive Health set for October 24

1994

Joined MSU before becoming a full time faculty member of the department in 1997

2023

Retired in May after almost 30 years at MSU

10-24-24

Presenter:  
Fasil Tekola-Ayele, Ph.D.

Title: Insights into fetal growth and metabolic health from maternal-placental-fetal genomics

Time: 3:00p.m.

Location : ISTB  
(Interdisciplinary Science  
Technology Building)

766 Service Road  
East Lansing, MI

Learn more about our  
department seminars

[Seminar Series](#)

In honor of Dr. Claudia Holzman's important and lasting impacts on both the science and career development of scholars in this field, the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics will host this named seminar each year to feature an exemplary scholar in women's and reproductive health. We are delighted that noted women's health researcher, Fasil Tekola-Ayele, Ph.D. from NIH, will participate as the inaugural speaker for this yearly event.



Claudia Holzman, DVM, MPH, PhD is an Emeritus Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Michigan State University (MSU). Dr. Holzman received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Michigan State University in 1976, her Master of Public Health degree from the University of Minnesota in 1986, and her PhD degree in epidemiology from the University of Michigan in 1996.

*To learn more [click here](#)*

## The FDA is taking action based on results from a study co-authored by Dr. Kristen Upson at MSU which found metals in tampons

In that study, tampons were laboratory tested for 16 metals, and 12 metals were found in all tampons tested, including lead, cadmium, and arsenic. The FDA has commissioned an independent literature review and initiated an internal laboratory bench study to evaluate metals in tampons.

*To learn more [click here](#)*



**Fall 2024**

## DID YOU KNOW

Dr. Hongxiang (David) Qiu gave a talk titled "Efficient and Multiply Robust Risk Estimation under General Forms of Dataset Shift" at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) 2024. in Portland, Oregon.

Dr. Nicole Talge recently visited Denmark to participate in the European Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology Conference and to give an invited talk at the University of Southern Denmark.

Drs Dawn Misra and Claire Margerison were named to the Inaugural ADVICE Cohort. ADVICE was designed to support mid- to senior-level faculty in constructing a center-level vision for team science at scale and positioning themselves for successful extramural center-level funding opportunities.

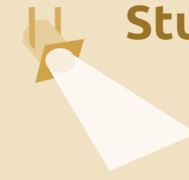
[Learn More](#)

The EQ-BEST Internship program had their kick off luncheon with program leaders, mentors and interns. [Learn more](#) about EQ-BEST.



**Staff member Darcie Zubek is retiring.** Darcie has worked in our department for the past five years and at MSU for 34 years. Once retired, Darcie is looking forward to enrolling in gardening courses offered through MSU Extension, travel, spending time with family and friends, taking up pickleball and volunteering. Darcie's last day will be Friday, November 1, 2024. We wish Darcie all the best in the next chapter of her life.

## Student Spotlight

Avery  
Armstrong

PhD in Epidemiology

Hometown: Grand Ledge, Michigan

**What inspired your interest in pursuing your degree?**

I've always been interested in diseases and how they spread, as well as how they affect our society.

[Continue reading about Avery](#)



## Kelsi Morris

Masters in Epidemiology

Hometown:  
Dousman, Wisconsin

**What inspired your interest in pursuing your degree?**

I had some health issues in high school that opened my eyes to the world of women's health. I went vegan at that time for environmental reasons, and I realized that I could also use my diet as a health tool. After talking with my endocrinologist about the power of food as medicine, I became passionate about helping people through nutrition, and in turn, community health.

[Continue reading about Kelsi](#)



## Student Spotlight

Nabasmita  
Talukdar

PhD in Biostatistics



**Hometown:** Guwahati (Assam) India

**What are some of the best things about being an MSU/Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics student?**

Access to diverse research opportunities, supportive faculty, and a collaborative environment.

[Continue reading about Nabasmita](#)



Jonathan Odingo

PhD in Epidemiology

**Hometown:**  
Kitengela, Kenya

**Why did you choose to study at MSU?**



My greatest motivation for applying to this program was the presence of highly accomplished faculty researchers. I was particularly drawn to Dr. Kelly Hirko’s work and her community-based research in Traverse City. While many studies on cancer exist, I was impressed by the focus on community engagement and the importance of health research in settings where disparities are often high. For my PhD, I applied exclusively to MSU—it was truly an all-or-nothing decision for me.

[Continue reading about Jonathan](#)

## Welcome Dr. Candice Johnson

*Dr. Johnson joined our department as an Assistant Professor on August 16, 2024 .*



**Favorite Group**

Is there any musical group better than ABBA? No.

**Favorite sport to play or watch**

I was skip (captain) of our office curling team at CDC. We lost every match. It was fun. I’m hoping to start curling again now that I’m back north.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**

Right now I’m into jigsaw puzzles, especially speed-puzzling. I have the added challenge of two large cats who like to sit on the pieces.

**What is the most interesting/enjoyable place you have visited?**

Newfoundland and New Mexico have been some of my favorite trips because the landscapes are so different from what I’m used to.

**What advice would you give to a student?**

What works for one person doesn’t work for everyone. Know what works for you—how your brain works, your life circumstances, your goals—and do what you need to do, even if it’s different from what everyone else is doing. I highly recommend Kemi Doll’s podcast episode on this topic (Your Unapologetic Career, episode 104) in which she gives examples of how to put this idea into practice.

*[Learn more about Dr. Johnson by visiting our Faculty Spotlight webpage.](#)*







# faculty in their SPARE TIME

When the laptop is closed what sport do some of our faculty enjoy watching or playing? —————>



## ALUMNI



Mike Bridges (Biostatistics '20) and Colleen Maccallum-Bridges (Epidemiology '22) welcomed a healthy 8 lbs. 10 oz. baby boy in August. Theo's current interests include tummy time, cluster feeding, and providing emotional support to Dad when the Lions are playing.



Department of  
**Epidemiology  
and Biostatistics**

909 Wilson Road B601  
East Lansing, MI 48824

### Dr. Jim Anthony

"I enjoy playing and watching swimming and baseball."

### Dr. David Barondess

"By far baseball – It's the ultimate stats-oriented sport for those so inclined.."

### Dr. Kip Bohnert

"Swimming is mine! But I like watching many sports."

### Dr. Danielle Gartner

"BASEBALL! I'm a sucker for a slow moving, almost boring, type of game. I don't need any more stress in my life...ha-ha."

### Dr. Candice Johnson

"Curling. I was skip (captain) of our office curling team at the CDC."

### Dr. Chenxi Li

"I like watching soccer and my favorite sport to play is swimming."

### Dr. Claire Margerison

"I enjoy participating in and watching running events."

### Dr. Dawn Misra

"I love watching baseball and lacrosse."

### Dr. Mathew Reeves

"I enjoy watching the English Premier League. (soccer) the most popular football league and most watched sports league in the world."

### Dr. Evan Reynolds

"I love to play water polo and watch basketball."