

Rohit Balasundaram

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Education

PhD Epidemiology

University of North Texas Health Science Center

Mentor: Uyen-Sa Nguyen

Dissertation: Examining Factors Associated with Dental Utilization Among Older Adults:
A Longitudinal Study

Fort Worth, TX
Expected Summer 2025

MPH Epidemiology

University of Colorado

Mentor: Madiha Abdel-Maksoud

Aurora, Colorado
December 2021

Bachelor of Dental Surgery

Sri Ramachandra University

Mentor: Akila Ganesh

Chennai, India
November 2015

Peer-Reviewed Publications

*Lead Statistician, **Co-First Author

Published

1. Patil S., **Balasundaram R.***, Nhpang R. and Neelamegam M. Mindfulness and Healthcare Spending Among Non-Hispanic Black Older Adults: A Stratified Analysis of the Health and Retirement Study (2024). *The Boston Congress of Public Health Review* (Accepted)
2. Johnson, K. C., **Balasundaram, R.***, Akpan, I. N., & Griner, S. B. (2024). Informational Sources About Breastfeeding Associated with Breastfeeding Initiation: Insights into Racial Disparities. *Breastfeeding Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1089/bfm.2024.0283>.
3. Alkhatib, S. A., Johnson, K. C., **Balasundaram, R.**, Burney, A., Kline, N., & Griner, S. B. (2024). The Effect of Islamophobia on the Mental Health of Muslim Americans Following the Tragedy of September 11th. *The Boston Congress of Public Health Review*. <https://doi.org/10.54111/0001/GGGG9>.
4. **Balasundaram, R.****, Boateng, S., Yockey, R. A., Yording, H., Tran, D., & Nguyen, U. S. (2024). Oral Health Literacy, Knowledge, Practice, and Beliefs Among Asian Americans: A Scoping Review. *Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdoe.12988>.
5. LoParco, C. R., Yockey, R. A., Sekhon, V. K., Olsson, S., Galindo, R., **Balasundaram, R.**, Agwuncha, T., & Rossheim, M. E. (in press). Kratom Retail Availability in Fort Worth, Texas. *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1080/02791072.2023.2181243>
6. Estrada, A., Mendez, A. D., Webb, N., Boateng, S., **Balasundaram, R.**, Neelamegam, M., & Griner, S. B. (2023). Reducing Sexually Transmitted Infections in Texas by Improving Sex Education in Texas Public Schools. *Texas Public Health Journal*, 75(1), 16–18.

In Submission

1. Tillett, K.K., Rossheim, M.E., Julian, M.T., Gerndt, E.M., LoParco, C.R., **Balasundaram, R.**, Acrey, P.M., Jarvis, S.E., Chauhan, N., & Berg, C.J. (Under Review). Retail availability and price of ready-to-drink alcohol products, Fort Worth, Texas, 2024.
2. **Balasundaram, R.**, Mendoza, E., Krenek, B., & Patil, S. (Under Review). Beyond borders: The power of cross-cultural community building. *American Journal of Public Health*. (Editorial)

3. Alkhatib, S.A., **Balasundaram, R.***, Johnson, K.C., Griner, S.B., Neelamegam, M., & Thompson, E.L. (2024). Religion, immigration, and birth control: Assessing the relationship between religion and immigration status on choice of contraception made by women in the United States from 2020–2021. *Womens Health Issues*.
4. Neelamegam, M., Patil, S., Nhpang, R.S., Alkhatib, S., **Balasundaram, R.**, Kline, N., & Griner, S. (2024). Perceptions of aging among Asian Indian immigrants in the United States: A qualitative explorative study.
5. Peeri, N., Tao, M.-H., Nguyen, N.B., **Balasundaram, R.**, Truong, C.H., & Nguyen, U.-S. (Under Review). Oral health and diabetes trends in the U.S. from 2011–2018, by race/ethnicity. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*.

In Preparation

1. **Balasundaram, R.***, Krenek, B., Mendoza, E., Patel, A., Quach, L., Nguyen, U.-S. (November 2024) Trajectories of Falls and Associated Factors Among Adults 65 and Older: Insights from the Health and Retirement Study. Target: Age and Ageing
2. Krenek-Schneider B.N., **Balasundaram, R.***, Akpan, I.N., Thompson, E.L., Lunningham, J.M, Knell, G. (2025). Association between rurality and meeting cervical cancer prevention screening guidelines by age and racial-ethnic identity. Target: Journal of Rural Health
3. **Balasundaram, R.***, Maliq, N.N., Alkhatib, S.A., & Nguyen, U.S. (In preparation). Association between acculturation and dental caries among Asian children aged 1–17 living in the United States. *Journal of the American Dental Association*. Target: Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities
4. Mendoza, E.P., Neelamegam, M., **Balasundaram, R.***, Zhou, Z., & Norheim, K. (In preparation). Geospatial intersection of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, diabetes, and poverty among U.S. women: A county-level analysis across ethnicities.
5. **Balasundaram, R.***, Rossheim, M., Boateng, S., Akpan, I., & Nguyen, U.-S. (In preparation). Oral health behaviors among cannabis users. Target: Journal of American Dental Association
6. **Balasundaram, R.***, Nguyen, U.-S., Mendoza, E., & Norheim, K. (In preparation). Geospatial analysis of the association between dental visits and structural racism using Machine learning methods. Target: Journal of Dental Research
7. **Balasundaram, R.** (In preparation). Five manuscripts under development related to the Fort Worth Community-Based Alcohol Surveillance Project.

Conference Presentations

1. Tillet, K., Rossheim, M. E., Julian, M. T., Gerndt, E. M., LoParco, C. R., **Balasundaram, R. B.**, Acrey, P. M., Jarvis, S. E, Chauhan, N., Berg, C. J (March 2025). Retail Availability and Price of Ready-to-Drink Alcohol Products, Fort Worth, Texas, 2024. Poster presented at the American Academy of Health Behavior (AAHB) Annual Meeting, San Diego, California.
2. **Balasundaram, R.**, Krenek, B., Mendoza, E., Patel, A., Quach, L., Nguyen, U.-S. (November 2024) Trajectories of Falls and Associated Factors Among Adults 65 and Older: Insights from the Health and Retirement Study. [Oral Presentation]. Gerontology Society of America Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.
3. **Balasundaram, R.**, Maliq, N.N, Alkhatib, S. A., Krenek, B. N., Nguyen, U.S (2024, June 17-21). Association between acculturation and dental caries among Asian children aged 1-17 living in the United States [Poster presentation]. American Public Health Association 2024 Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, United States.
4. Mendoza, E.P., Neelamegam, M., **Balasundaram, R.B.**, Zhou, Zhengyang, & Norheim, K. (2024, 1-2 February). Geospatial intersection of Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias, diabetes, and poverty among U.S. women: A county-level analysis across ethnicities [Oral Presentation]. 5th American Public Health Association 2024 Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, United States.
5. Krenek, B. N., Akpan, I. N., **Balasundaram, R.**, Thompson, E. L., & Lunningham, J. M. (2024, June 17-21). Evaluating Rurality and [Poster presentation]. Society for Epidemiologic Research 2024 Annual Meeting, Austin, TX.

6. **Balasundaram, R.**, Maliq. N.N, Alkhatib, S. A., Nguyen, U.S (2024, June 17-21). Association between acculturation and dental caries among Asian children aged 1-17 living in the United States [Poster presentation]. Society of Epidemiologic Research 2024 Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, United States.
7. Krenek, B. N., Akpan, I. N., **Balasundaram, R.**, Thompson, E. L., & Lunningham, J. M. (2024, June 17-21). Is there an association between Christian Religious Affiliation and Likelihood to Adhere to Recommended Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines? [Poster presentation]. Society for Epidemiologic Research 2024 Annual Meeting, Austin, TX.
8. Alkhatib, S. A., **Balasundaram, R.**, Johnson, K., Griner, S., & Thompson, E. L. (2024, April). Religion and Immigration in the Choice of Contraception. [Poster presentation]. American Academy of Health Behavior 2024 Annual Meeting, Savannah, GA.
9. Johnson, K. C., **Balasundaram, R.**, Akpan, I. N., Kinad, A., & Griner, S. B. (2024, April). Breastfeeding Initiation by Breastfeeding Information Source and Race. [Poster presentation]. American Academy of Health Behavior 2024 Annual Meeting, Savannah, GA.
10. Krenek, B. N., Akpan, I. N., **Balasundaram, R.**, Thompson, E. L., & Lunningham, J. M. (2024, April 14-17). Does Christian Denomination Influence Likelihood to be Up to Date on Cervical Cancer Screening? [Poster presentation]. American Academy of Health Behavior 2024 Annual Meeting, Savannah, GA.
11. Mendoza, E.P., Neelamegam, M., **Balasundaram, R.B.**, Zhou, Zhengyang, & Northeim, K. (2024, 1-2 February). Geospatial intersection of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias, diabetes, and poverty among U.S. women: A county-level analysis across ethnicities. 5th Annual Women's Cardiovascular and Brain Health Symposium, Fort Worth TX, United States.
12. **Balasundaram, R.**, Rossheim, M., Boateng, S., Akpan, I., & Nguyen, U.-S. (2023, November). Cannabis use and oral health behaviors: A nationally representative study of U.S. adults aged 30-59. [Poster presentation]. American Public Health Association (APHA) 2023 Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
13. **Balasundaram, R.**, Mendoza, E., & Northeim, K. (2023, October). Exploring Socioeconomic Influences on Dental Visit Prevalence in Texas using Geographic Weighted Regression. [Poster presentation]. Texas Society of Public Health Education Conference, Austin, TX.
14. **Balasundaram, R.**, Boateng, S., Yockey, R. A., Yording, H., Tran, D., & Nguyen, U.-S. (2023, April). Oral Health Literacy, Knowledge, Practice, and Beliefs Among Asian Americans: A Scoping Review. [Poster presentation]. National Oral Health Conference, Orlando, FL.
15. Johnson, K. C., **Balasundaram, R.**, Akpan, I. N., & Griner, S. B. (2023, April). Breastfeeding Initiation and Information Sources by Race. [Poster presentation]. American Academy of Health Behavior 2023 Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
16. Boateng, S., **Balasundaram, R.**, Nguyen, U., & Nandy, R. (2022, November). Interaction of Racial and Gender Disparities in Salivary Gland Cancer Survival in the United States: A Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results Study. [Poster presentation]. American Public Health Association 2022 Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
17. Webb, N., Kline, N., Estrada, A., Mendez, A., Boateng, S., **Balasundaram, R.**, & Neelamegam, M. (2022, November). Policing and Public Health: Examining Law Enforcement Alternatives for Substance Use and Mental Health Crises. [Poster presentation]. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
18. **Balasundaram, R.** (2019, December). Does the use of Marijuana negatively affect the success rate of smoking cessation among Colorado Adults? [Oral and Poster presentation]. Colorado School of Public Health 2019 Capstone Forum, Aurora, CO.
19. **Balasundaram, R.**, Maliq, N. N., & Nirmal, L. (2014, September 11-14). Traditional Vs E-learning. [Poster presentation]. FDI Conference 2014, Annual World Dental Congress, NCR New Delhi.
20. **Balasundaram, R.**, Maliq, N. N., & Malathi. (2012, October 19-20). Estimation of IL-6 in serum and saliva of Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma patients. [Poster presentation]. 30th Tamil Nadu State Dental Conference Students Convention, RVS Dental College.
21. **Balasundaram, R.**, Badri, S. (2012, October 19-20). Analysis of a Smile Line. [Poster presentation]. 30th Tamil Nadu State Dental Conference Students Convention, RVS Dental College.
22. **Balasundaram, R.**, Mathew, S., & Sivanathan, R. (2011, December 2-4). Robotics in Dentistry. [Poster presentation]. Indian Dental Association National Student Convention, Tamil Nadu, India.

Professional Experience

Graduate Research Assistant University of North Texas Health Science Center	Fort Worth, TX August 2021 – Present
Instructor in Biostatistics University of North Texas Health Science Center	Fort Worth, TX August 2024 – Present
Graduate Teaching Assistant University of North Texas Health Science Center	Fort Worth, TX August 2021 – Present
Epidemiologist (Contract) Colorado Department of Public Health	Denver, CO June 2020 – Feb 2021
Epidemiologist 1 (Contract) Texas DSHS	Lubbock, TX May 2020 – June 2020
Research Assistant University of Colorado	Aurora, CO June 2019 – June 2020
Graduate Teaching Assistant University of Colorado	Aurora, CO Jan 2019 – May 2019

Projects

Active

Community & Health Alliances Research Education Research Lead: Dr. Uyen-Sa Nguyen Role: Graduate Research Assistant Responsibilities: Lead Research Papers, data analysis, conference presentation Org: University of North Texas Health Science Center	Fort Worth, TX February 2024 – Present
Community-Based Alcohol Surveillance (Local and National) Principal Investigator: Dr. Matthew Rossheim Role: Graduate Research Assistant Responsibilities: Data Collection, Geospatial Data Analysis, Co-author manuscripts Org: University of North Texas Health Science Center	Fort Worth, TX September 2023 – Present

Completed

Assessing Public Health Impact of War in Ukraine Principal Investigator: Dr Ubydul Haque Role: Graduate Research Assistant	Fort Worth, TX September 2022 – January 2023
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Pending

Oral Hygiene and Dental Education for Older Adults Principal Investigator: Dr. Lauren Tobey Co-Investigator: Uyen-Sa Nguyen Role: Statistician Responsibilities: Data Analysis, design study, power calculations, IRB editing. Org: Help Restore Ability	Fort Worth, TX May 2024 – Present
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Grants Submitted

Oral Health Trajectories and Outcomes among Older Adults in Community-Dwelling and Long-Term Care Settings Served by Apple Tree Dental's Community Collaborative Practice Principal Investigator: Dr. Rohit Balasundaram Co-Investigator: Dr. Lyubov Slashescheva Source: American Association of Public Health Dentistry (Small Grants)	
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Status: Not funded

Assessing the Impact of Oral Hygiene and Dental Education on Chronic Disease Outcome among Older Adults with Disability

Principal Investigator: Dr. Lauren Tobey

Co-Investigator: Uyen-Sa Nguyen

Source: Texas Health Institute

Role: Statistician

Status: Not funded

Assessing the Bidirectional Association between Diabetes and Periodontitis

Principal Investigator: Dr. Uyen-Sa Nguyen

Source: NIH-NIDCR/R03

Role: Graduate Research Assistant

Status: Not funded

Professional Skills and Certifications

Software and Technical Tools: SAS, R, RStudio, Python, SAS Macro, SQL, ArcGIS Pro, REDCap, Canvas LMS, Jupyter Notebook, PyCharm, R Markdown, Quarto, LaTeX, Zotero, EndNote, Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Epi-Stats Skills: Generalized Linear Models (linear, logistic, poisson, etc.), Generalized Linear Mixed Models, Generalized Estimating Equations, Survival Analysis, Group-Based Trajectory Modeling, Latent Class Growth Analysis, Survey Data Analysis, DAGS, Propensity Score (parametric and non-parametric), Inverse Probability Weighting, Interaction analysis (statistical, multiplicative, additive, and intersectional), TMLE, Causal Inference.

Machine Learning: Gradient Boosting, LightGBM, Xgboost, CatBoost, Adaboost, RandomForest, Elastic Net, LASSO, Ridge, Neural Nets, SuperLearner, Linear Regression, Logistic Regression.

Data Visualization: Forest plots, Interaction plots, Trajectory plots, Heatmaps, Geographic and spatial mapping, ROC curves, Calibration plots, SHAP summary plots, Publication-ready statistical tables, Bar plots, Box plots, Scatterplots, Kaplan-Meier curves.

Certifications: SAS Certified Specialist: Base Programming Using SAS 9.4, Basic Life Support and First Aid, Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), FEMA ICS.

Datasets Analyzed: Health and Retirement Survey, BRFSS, NHANES, PRAMS, NSFG, CDC SVI, NCHAT, NSCH.

Teaching Experience

Lead Instructor

Term	Format	Course	Class Size
Spring 2025	In-person	BIOS 5318 – Introduction to Machine Learning	7
Fall 2024	In-person	BIOS 5322 – Statistical Computing and Visualization	11

Guest Lecturer & Teaching Assistant

Term	Format	Course	Class Size
Fall 2024	In-Person	Workshop - Intro to SAS & R	18
Fall 2023	In-person	EPID 5313 – Intro to Data Management & Statistics	30
Fall 2022	In-person	EPID 5313 – Intro to Data Management & Statistics	28

Teaching Assistant

Term	Format	Course	Class Size
Spring 2023	In-person	EPID 5310 – Intermediate Epidemiology	28
Fall 2021	In-person	EPID 5313 – Intro to Data Management & Statistics	28
Spring 2019	In-person	Research Methods in Epidemiology	60

Community Engagement and Service

Invited Speaker on Oral Health Islamic Association of Tarrant County Title: Healthy Smiles, Healthy Lives	Fort Worth, TX August 2024
Volunteer Dental Assistant Fort Worth Mercy Clinic	Fort Worth, TX Feb 2020 – 2022
Volunteer Dental Assistant Worthmore Refugee Clinic	Aurora, CO Sep – Dec 2019
Volunteer Dentist Primary Health Care Center, Vayalanallur	Chennai, India Jul 6, 2015
Volunteer Dentist Primary Health Care Center, West Mambalam	Chennai, India Feb 23 – 28, 2015
Volunteer Dentist Primary Health Care Center, Mugalivakkam	Chennai, India Sep 15 – 20, 2014
Health Campaign Organizer No Tobacco Awareness Campaign, Sri Ramachandra University	Chennai, India May 31, 2015
Program Planner Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention, Sri Ramachandra University	Chennai, India Jul 2015
Oral Prophylaxis Trainer for Visually Impaired Children Sri Ramachandra University	Chennai, India Jul 2015
Volunteer Dentist Puzhal Prison	Chennai, India Jul 1, 2015
Dental Camp Organizer Child Haven	Chennai, India Jul 1, 2016

Awards and Honors

Doctoral Fellowship School of Public Health, University of North Texas Health Science Center	Fort Worth, TX August 2021 – Present
Research Appreciation Day - 2nd Place Best Poster School of Public Health, University of North Texas Health Science Center (\$400)	Fort Worth, TX August 2021 – Present
Travel Award – Dean’s Funding School of Public Health, University of North Texas Health Science Center (\$200)	Fort Worth, TX 2023
Travel Award – Public Health Student Government Association School of Public Health, University of North Texas Health Science Center (\$1280)	Fort Worth, TX 2023
Travel Award – Public Health Student Government Association School of Public Health, University of North Texas Health Science Center (\$350)	Fort Worth, TX 2023
Travel Award – School of Public Health School of Public Health, University of North Texas Health Science Center (\$1500)	Fort Worth, TX 2023
International Student Scholarship Colorado School of Public Health (Awarded in-state tuition)	Aurora, CO 2019
Center for Global Health Scholarship Colorado School of Public Health (Awarded for global health practicum)	Aurora, CO 2017

Professional Services

- Reviewer: *Journal of the American Dental Association (JADA)* — 5 reviews completed
- Reviewer: *Journal of Migration and Health* — 1 review completed
- Abstract Reviewer: *American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, 2024* — Reviewed 7 abstracts (4 for Oral Health Section, 3 for Epidemiology Section)

- Abstract Reviewer: *Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) Annual Meeting, 2024* — Reviewed 2 research abstracts
- Abstract Reviewer: *American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, 2023* — Reviewed 1 short film abstract
- Student Speaker: *International Education Week*, University of North Texas Health Science Center

Leadership and Service Roles

PhD Representative Public Health Student Government Association, School of Public Health, UNTHSC	Fort Worth, TX 2024 – 2025
Community Service Coordinator Public Health Minority Association, School of Public Health, UNTHSC	Fort Worth, TX 2024 – 2025
Orientation Leader University of North Texas Health Science Center	Fort Worth, TX 2024
General Secretary International Students Group, University of Colorado	Aurora, CO September 2017 – May 2019
General Secretary Student Council, Sri Ramachandra University	Chennai, India June 2013 – May 2014

Professional Memberships

American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) – Member	[2022 - Present]
American Public Health Association (APHA) – Member	[2023 - Present]
Gerontology Society of America (GSA) – Member	[2024 - Present]
Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) – Member	[2024 - Present]
International Association of Dental Research (IADR) – Member	[2024 - Present]

References

1. Dr. Uyen-Sa D. T. Nguyen, DSc, MPH
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2. Dr. Zhengyang Zhou, PhD
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3. Dr. Mathew Rosheim, PhD
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