

Rohit Baal Balasundaram, MPH

rohitbaalbalasundaram@my.unthsc.edu

Education

Bachelor of Dental Surgery

Nov 2015

Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu, India

Master of Public Health, Epidemiology

Dec 2019

University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus: Aurora, CO

Ph.D. Public Health Sciences, Epidemiology

Anticipated (2024)

University of North Texas Health Science Center

Professional Experience

Epidemiologist (Contract)

June 2020 – Feb 2021

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

- Coordinate surveillance with the local health departments, state subject matter experts, and other partners to ensure appropriate and timely follow-up of collection and transmission of case data and specimens.
- Provide subject matter expertise in the form of epidemiological consultation and support to local health department providers and long-term care facilities.
- Manage data in REDCap for the statewide outbreak database.
- Implement disease control measures, including referring ill contacts to testing venues, issuing isolation orders and instructions to cases, and quarantine orders and instructions to contacts, following disease control protocols.
- Monitor statewide surveillance and laboratory systems daily for outbreak cases and trends in disease activity.
- Create EPI Curves, and outbreak summary reports, analyze outbreak data, and respond to other requests.
- Maintain a close relationship with state labs to deploy strike teams to high-priority settings for testing such as prisons.

Epidemiologist 1 (Contract)

May 2020 – June 2020

Texas Department of State Health Services

- Assists Sr. Epidemiologists in NEDSS data clean-up activities weekly and makes recommendations for improving data quality and the reporting process.
- Provide contacts with approved information about Texas' quarantine procedures, and if appropriate, refer them to testing according to protocol and to a COVID-19 social resource.
- Collect and record information on symptoms into a data management platform.
- Manage COVID database using MS Access

Research Assistant (Part-Time)

June 2019 – Dec 2019, March 2020 -June 2020

University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus

- Conducting survey phone calls and accurately entering data utilizing a Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system or other survey data collection tools.
- Assisting in processing materials and data for multi-mode surveys and verification processes.

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- Assistance with quality assurance and system testing.
- Assisting in beta-testing of newly programmed surveys.

Graduate Teaching Assistant (Part-Time)

Jan 2019 – May 2019

University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus

- Assist students with research projects.
- Conduct SAS LABs required for the course.
- Provide support to students in debugging SAS codes, manipulating and cleaning data, and data analysis.
- Grade assignments, papers, and presentations and provide feedback.

Student Assistant (Part-Time)

Dec 2017 – Dec 2019

University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus

- Data Entry, Data Management
- Proctor and schedule exams
- Create summary reports
- Assistive Technology Specialist

Professional Skills and Development

Certifications:	SAS Certified Specialist: Base Programming Using SAS 9.4, Basic Life Support and First Aid, Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) FEMA ICS
Software:	SAS, R, SPSS, SQL, REDcap, Tableau, Python, Microsoft Office suite, Endnote

Manuscripts

Balasundaram, R., Boateng, S., Yockey, R.A., Yording, H., Tran, D., Nguyen, U.S. Oral Health Literacy, Knowledge, Practice, and Beliefs Among Asian Americans: A Scoping Review. Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology (Under Review).

LoParco, C.R., Yockey, R. A., Sekhon, V.K., Olsson, S., Galindo, R., **Balasundaram, R.**, Agwuncha, T., & Rosshiem, M.E.. Kratom retail availability in Fort Worth, Texas. Journal of Psychoactive Drugs.

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), 16-1.

Additional Research Projects

- Capstone Project: "Does the use of Marijuana negatively affect the success rate of smoking cessation among Colorado Adults", (Dec 2019).
Colorado School of Public Health – Preceptor: Dr. Katherine James.
- Study: "Excess weight gain during pregnancy leads to high rates of C-Section", (April 2018).
Colorado School of Public Health – Preceptor: Dr. Abdel-Maksoud.

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- **Practicum:** Rapids Needs Assessment of Vallipuram, Tamil Nadu, (December 2017).
Colorado School of Public Health – Preceptor: Dr. Abdel-Maksoud.

Presentations

Baal Balasundaram, R., Rossheim, M., Boateng, S., Akpan, I., & Nguyen, U.-S. Cannabis use and oral health behaviors: A nationally representative study of U.S. adults aged 30-59. Poster Presentation by Rohit Balasundaram at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA, November 2023.

Balasundaram, R., Mendoza, E., Northeim, K. (2023). Exploring Socioeconomic Influences on Dental Visit Prevalence in Texas using Geographic Weighted Regression. Texas Society of Public Health Education Conference, Austin, Texas, October 2022.

Balasundaram, R., Boateng, S., Yockey, R.A., Yording, H., Tran, D., Nguyen, U.S. Oral Health Literacy, Knowledge, Practice, and Beliefs Among Asian Americans: A Scoping Review. National Oral Health Conference. Orlando, FL, April 2023.

Johnson, K.C., **Baal Balasundaram, R.**, Akpan, I.N., Griner, S.B. Breastfeeding Initiation and Information Sources by Race. American Academy of Health Behavior Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA, April 2023.

Boateng, S., **Balasundaram, R.**, Nguyen, U., Nandy, R. Interaction of Racial and Gender Disparities in Salivary Gland Cancer Survival in the United States: A Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results Study. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Boston, MA, November 2022.

Webb, N., Kline, N., Estrada, A., Mendez, A., Boateng, S., **Balasundaram, R.**, Neelamegam, M. Policing and Public Health: Examining Law Enforcement Alternatives for Substance Use and Mental Health Crises. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Boston, MA, 2022.

Balasundaram, R. Does the use of Marijuana negatively affect the success rate of smoking cessation among Colorado Adults? Session: Epidemiology. Oral and Poster presentation at the Colorado School of Public Health Capstone Forum, Aurora, CO, 2019.

Balasundaram, R., Maliq, NN, Nirmal, L. Traditional Vs E-learning. Session: Department of Pedodontics. Poster presentation at FDI conference 2014, Annual World Dental Congress, NCR New Delhi, September 11-14, 2014.

Balasundaram, R., Maliq, NN, Malathi. Estimation of IL-6 in serum and saliva of Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma patients. Session: Early Detection, Better Prognosis. Poster presentation at the 30th Tamil Nadu State Dental Conference Students Convention, RVS Dental College, October 19-20, 2012.

Balasundaram, R., Badri, S. Analysis of a Smile Line. Poster presentation at the 30th Tamil Nadu State Dental Conference Students Convention, RVS Dental College, October 19-20, 2012.

Balasundaram, R., Mathew, S., Sivanathan, R. Robotics in Dentistry. Poster presentation at the Indian Dental Association National Student Convention, Tamil Nadu, India, December 2-4, 2011.

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Book Chapter

- Glass Inomer Cement " (2012): Contributed a chapter in Questions and Answers in Conservative Dentistry, a collaborative effort with a team of 6 from the student batch of 2010-2015.

Volunteer Experience

- Dental Assistant at Fort Worth Mercy Clinic (February 2020 – Present).
- Dental Assistant at Worthmore Refugee Clinic, Aurora, CO (September 2019 – December 2020)
- General Dentist at Primary Health Care Center at Vayalanallur, Chennai, India – 06/07/2015 to 07/07/2015. Provided free services such as screening, diagnosis, and treatment.
- General Dentist at Primary Health Care Center at West Mambalam, Chennai, India – 02/23/2015 to 02/28/2015. Provided free services such as screening, diagnosis, and treatment.
- General Dentist at Primary Health Care Center at Mugalivakkam, Chennai, India – 09/15/2014 – 09/20/2014. Provided free services such as screening, diagnosis, and treatment.
- Participated in the organization of a no tobacco Awareness campaign at Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai, India - 05/31/2015
- Pioneered a program to raise awareness on mental health and prevent suicides among students at Sri Ramachandra University.
- Conducted an Oral Prophylaxis training for visually impaired children.
- General Dentist at Puzal prison, Chennai, India – 7/1/2015. Provided free services such as screening, diagnosis, and treatment.
- Organized a free dental camp for children at Child Haven, Chennai, India – 7/1/2016.

Licenses & Certifications

- Registered Dentist at Tamil Nadu Dental Council under The Dentists Act, 1948. Registration Number: 20885
- Basic Life Support approved by the American Heart Association. Expiring 02/2021. E-card Code: 195501489299
- SAS Certified Specialist: Base Programming Using SAS 9.4. Credential ID YRZ30CGCCFE4Q23K.

Leadership Experience

- General Secretary (September 2017 – May 2019) – International Students Group – University of Colorado, Aurora, CO.
- General Secretary (June 2013 – May 2014) – Student Council – Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai, India.

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Professional Services

Abstract Reviewer:

- American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, 2023. Reviewed 1 abstract for the conference.

Professional Memberships

- American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD)
- American Public Health Association (APHA)
- Society of Epidemiologic Research (SER)
- Texas Society of Public Health Education (TSOPHE)