

List of Funded Pilot Projects (2012-2023)

2023

PI	Mentor (if applicable)	Institution	Project Title
Jonathan Dropkin, ScD	Homero Harari, ScD	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	Evaluation of psychosocial and biomechanical exposures in New York City Latinx domestic cleaners
Sean Duenas, MD (Resident)	Ryan Butzko, DO Michael Diefenbach, MD Jacqueline Moline, MD	Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell	Evaluating the Efficacy of Lemborexant in the World Trade Center Exposed Cohort with comorbid PTSD and Insomnia
Setareh Kazemi Kheiri, MS (PhD cand.)	Lora Cavuoto, PhD Hongyue Sun, PhD	University at Buffalo	A privacy-preserved approach for warehouse workers' upper extremity fatigue prediction in dynamic tasks
Antonio Saporito, BA (PhD cand.)	Terry Gordon, PhD Judith Zelikoff, PhD	Grossman School of Medicine, New York University	Adverse Health Effects of Occupational Exposure to Cooking Aerosol Emissions
Wiston Rodriguez, M.Phil. (PhD cand.)	Zhiqing Zhou, PhD	The Graduate Center and Baruch College, CUNY	Antecedents and Outcomes of Selective Incivility Towards LGBTQ+ Employees.
Amy Witkoski Stimpfel, PhD, RN		Rory Meyers College of Nursing, New York University	Exploring barriers and facilitators of work schedule satisfaction among staff nurses and nurse managers

2022

PI	Mentor (if applicable)	Institution	Project Title
Diana Romero, PhD MA		CUNY School of Public Health and Health Policy	Child welfare workers and secondary trauma: The potential for inter-sectoral collaborations to improve worker health and case outcomes
Emmanuel Yung, DPT (PhD cand.)	Ali Sheikhzadeh, PhD; Shira Weiner, PT, PhD	New York University, Ergonomics and Biomechanics	Association between conditioned pain modulation and the longitudinal response to joint mobilization in adults with chronic neck pain
Samantha Fisher, MPH (PhD cand.)	Brian Pavilonis, PhD; Suzanne McDermott, PhD	CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy	Innovative Approach to Quantify Occupational Quaternary Ammonium Compounds Exposure from Infant Meconium
Hannah Thompson, MD (Resident / MPH cand.)	Ismail Nabeel, MD MPH MS	Mount Sinai Hospital	Short-Acting Opioids and Working-Age Patients from the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey
Katherine Lubina, MS (PhD cand.)	Judith M. Graber, PhD MS; Zorimar Rivera-Núñez, PhD MS	Rutgers University, School of Public Health	Exploring exposure sources of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) among volunteer firefighters
Gerald Mastroianni, MS	Homero Harari, ScD	CUNY School of Public Health and Health Policy	Evaluating Inhalation Exposures to Alternative Cleaning Products by Latina Domestic Cleaners in NYC
Deborah Akinsilo, MD MS (Resident / MPH cand.)	John Meyer, MD MPH	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	Transgenerational effect of Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals on Adverse Birth Outcomes

2021

PI	Mentor (if applicable)	Institution	Project Title
Alexis Mraz, PhD		The College of New Jersey	Assessing the risk of cryptosporidiosis to dairy farmer workers in New Jersey, with and without the use of PPE
Chelsea McCabe, MD (Resident)	Stanley Pierre, MD MPA	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	Assessing Vaccine Hesitancy, Barriers and Access to COVID-19 Vaccinations for Home Health Workers in New York City: A Pilot Study
David Luglio (PhD cand.)	Terry Gordon, PhD	New York University	Composition and in vitro toxicology of PM on subway platforms
Edgar Pérez-Matías, MS (PhD cand.)	Sergio A. Caporali-Filho, PhD, CSP, CIH	University of Puerto Rico	Effects of air density on aerosol transport velocity capability in a local exhaust ventilation system -- a redesigned experiment

Hongyue Sun, PhD		University at Buffalo	Investigation of Electric and Gas Workers' Fatigue and Risk via Real-time Wearable Sensor Data Segmentation, Recognition and Monitoring
Julie Caruth, MBBS, MPH		Rutgers University	Incidence and Predictors of COVID-19 Infection in Prison Clinical Staff
Natalie Hellmers, MSN (PhD cand.)	Victoria Vaughan Dickson, PhD, RN	New York University	Work-Life Balance Among Family Caregivers of Adults with Parkinson's Disease: A Mixed Methods Study
Sylvia E. Twersky, PhD, MPH		The College of New Jersey	SARS-CoV-19 vaccination and home healthcare workers: Understanding barriers and facilitators to vaccination

2020

PI	Mentor (if applicable)	Institution	Project Title
Lauren Ghazal, MS (PhD cand.)	Victoria Vaughan Dickson, PhD, RN	New York University	Exploring multilevel factors impacting quality of life in working young adult cancer survivors
Sahand Hajifar (PhD cand.)	Hongyue Sun, PhD Lora Cavuoto, PhD	University at Buffalo	A Data-driven Framework for Task Recognition via Wearable Sensors for Electric and Gas Workers
Sergio Augusto Caporali-Filho, PhD		University of Puerto Rico	Effects of air density on aerosol transport velocity capability in a local exhaust ventilation system
Rabeea Khan, MD (MPH cand.)	John Meyer, MD, MPH Andy Todd, PhD	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	Lead Exposure in Communication Workers in New York City
Paul Landsbergis, PhD, MPH		SUNY Downstate	Evaluation of Relationship between Occupational Health and Organizational Structure
Nimit Shah, MPH (PhD cand.)	Judith Graber, PhD	Rutgers University	Exploring the Challenges and Facilitators to Physical Health in Volunteer Firefighters Across their Tenure

2019

PI	Mentor (if applicable)	Institution	Project Title
Andrew Karasick, MD, MPH, MBA (Resident)	Judith Graber, PhD Michael Gusmani, PhD Iris Udasin, MD	Rutgers University	An Assessment of Healthcare Access and Utilization in the World Trade Center Health Monitoring Program
Candace Tannis, MD, MPH	John Meyer, MD, MPH	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	Work Accommodation and Pregnancy Outcomes in High Risk Women
Danielle Wald (PhD cand.)	Zhiqing Zhou, PhD Erin Eatough, MD	CUNY Baruch College & The Graduate Center	In the Eye of the Beholder: A Daily Diary Investigation of Appraisals and Attributions of Illegitimate Tasks
Salvatore Crusco, MD (MHP cand.)	Ismail Nabeel, MD PhD	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	Utilizing Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Machine Learning (ML) to Predict Acuity and Return to Work Timeline for Patients With Lower Back, Knee, and Shoulder Pain
Shira Schechter Weiner, PhD		Touro College	A Framework for preparing clinicians for the clinical challenges of the Opioid crisis
Tamar Nobel, MD (MPH cand.)	Celia Divino, MD	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders Among Surgical Trainees

2018

PI	Mentor (if applicable)	Institution	Project Title
Qian Zhang (PhD cand.)	Lora Cavuoto, PhD	University at Buffalo	Evaluating the effects of obesity on lifting kinematics during construction work
Brian Pavilonis, PhD		CUNY, Public Health and Health Policy	Assessment of ventilation and indoor air pollutants in nail salons
Malika Garg, MD (Resident)	John Meyer, MD, MPH	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	Maternal Occupation and Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy

Katia Costa-Black, PhD		New York University	Implementing an ergonomics program at an animal research facility: a process evaluation pilot study
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2017

PI	Mentor (if applicable)	Institution	Project Title
Stuart Cohen, MD		Northwell School of Medicine	Screening for lung disease, cardiovascular disease and malignancy in asbestos-exposed workers.
Leon Levine (DrPH cand.)	Frank Mirer, PhD, CIH	CUNY School of Public Health	The direct effects of elevated carbon dioxide levels on teachers' health
Feng Lin, PhD / Wenyao Xu, PhD		University at Buffalo	In situ balance monitoring in construction field using an unobtrusive footwear device
Amy Witkoski Stimpfel, PhD		New York University, College of Nursing	Organization of work factors associated with work ability in older nurses
Luckshman Coomaringam, MD (MPH cand.)	Homero Harari, PhD	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	Occupational Exposures and Health in Scenic Artists in New York City

2016

PI	Mentor (if applicable)	Institution	Project Title
Elizabeth Geltman, PhD		CUNY School of Public Health	Evaluation of Soil Vapor Exposure in Workers
Ismail Nabeel, MD / Parag Sheth, MD		Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	Development of the Return to Work Guidelines for Low Back Pain Patients in a Primary Care setting.
Elizabeth Millbank, MD (MPH cand.)	John Meyer, MD, MPH	Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	Pregnancy and work accommodations
Shira Weiner, PhD		Touro College	Assessment of novice clinician management of acute nonspecific low back pain: do they know what to do?
Preethi Rajan, MD (Resident/Fellow)	Harly Greenberg, MD Jaqueline Moline, MD	North Shore-LIJ	Pathophysiology and treatment outcomes of obstructive sleep apnea in World Trade Center exposed individuals
Megan Horton, PhD		Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai	magnetic resonance imaging and positron emission tomography to examine the cardiovascular effects of welding fume exposure

2015

PI	Mentor (if applicable)	Institution	Project Title
Mojdeh Pajoutan (PhD cand.)	Lora Cavouto, PhD	SUNY Buffalo	Influence of obesity on muscle fatigue development
Brian Pavilonis, PhD		Hunter College	Occupational exposure to cooking fumes in restaurant kitchens in NYC
Denise Gaughan, ScD		Mount Sinai School of Medicine	Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Positron Emission Tomography to examine the cardiovascular effects of welding fume exposure
Stephanie Myers (DrPH cand.)	Paul Landsbergis, PhD	SUNY Downstate	Association of stress and obesity: analysis of NIOSH Quality of Work Life Surveys
Jonathan Dropkin, ScD		North Shore-LIJ	Workers' compensation claims and treatment of musculoskeletal injuries among Equity actors.

2014

PI	Mentor (if applicable)	Institution	Project Title
Evanda V. Henry (MS cand.)	Arijit Sengupta, PhD	New Jersey Institute of Technology	Estimation of low back loading in bedside care: the importance of bed positioning to patient handling task

Hicham Alnachawati MD, MPH (Resident/Fellow)	Winston Kwa, MD, MPH	Mount Sinai School of Medicine	External ambulatory service utilization among WTC program enrollees at Mount Sinai
Shannon Widman, MPH (PhD cand.)	Grace N. Sembajwe, DSc Lew Pepper, MD	Queens College	Beryllium-related disease: a case control study of U.S. Department of Energy workers
Norman Zuckerman, MS		Mount Sinai School of Medicine	Women in construction: PPE, tools and workstations
Amy Witkoski Stimpfel, PhD, RN		New York University	Newly licensed nurses at risk: evaluating the association between work hours and occupational injury
Sadie Sanchez, MD (Resident/Fellow)	William Holden, PhD	Mount Sinai School of Medicine	Cardiovascular outcomes and cognitive impairment among adults exposed to the 9/11 WTC disaster

2013

PI	Mentor (if applicable)	Institution	Project Title
Norman Queseda, MD (Resident/Fellow)	Winston Kwa, MD, MPH	Mount Sinai School of Medicine	Occupational medicine education exposure assessment during medical school based on residents' perspective
Grace N. Sembajwe, DSc	Franklin Mirer, PhD	Hunter College	Analysis of OSHA data initiative (ODI) injury/illness rates from 1996 to 2010
Jonathan Dropkin, ScD, PT		North Shore-LIJ	Qualitative and quantitative research methods for Emergency Medical Service workers
Hemant Sarin, MD (Resident/Fellow)	Winston Kwa, MD, MPH	Mount Sinai School of Medicine	Pathophysiology of toxicant-induced fibrosis and solid malignancy
Manny Halpern, PhD		New York University	The effects of feedback on changing safe body mechanics of dentistry students in the lab

2012

PI	Mentor (if applicable)	Institution	Project Title
Jeffrey Snyder, MA (PhD cand.)	Ali Sheikhzadeh, PhD	New York University	A comparison of the effects of shoulder muscle fatigue caused by sustained overhead activity on scapulothoracic kinematics in younger and older populations
Perry Sheffield, MD, MPH		Mount Sinai School of Medicine	Workplace productivity measures and high temperatures in non-climate controlled small enterprise in Nicaragua
Sherri Weiser, PhD		New York University	How do expectations impact recovery after a musculoskeletal injury? A follow up analysis
Ken Spaeth, MD, MPH		North Shore-LIJ	Health effects assessment of chronic trichloroethylene exposure in staff at a Bronx elementary school
Elizabeth Scott Hill, LCSW (PhD cand.)	Susan Teitelbaum, PhD Mitchel Rosen, PhD	Mount Sinai School of Medicine	Identifying WTC responders' preferences for persuasive messaging content, sources, and channels to increase participation in the World Trade Center Health Program
Shira Schecter Weiner, PhD, PT		New York University	Effect of foam density on pressure mapping and comfort: application to seat design