ABOUT OUR TEAM

ABOUT
The Women’s Health Research Team (WHRT) includes over 25 active faculty, undergraduate and graduate students. The WHRT conducts qualitative and quantitative research to better understand reproductive and sexual health issues and behaviors among women. The team is committed to a multi- and interdisciplinary approach to women’s health research, drawing from the behavioral and clinical sciences, communication, and social marketing fields. Research findings extend concepts, methods, and theory in the fields of public health and communication.

VISION
To improve the health and well-being of women through praxis-oriented research that bridges the gap between theory and practice, informing the development of community-based public health interventions.

The Women's Health Research Team is committed to a multi- and interdisciplinary approach to women's health research that empowers women and girls in our community, South Carolina, and beyond.

MISSION
The Women’s Health Research Team is committed to a multi- and interdisciplinary approach to women's health research to empower women and girls in our community, South Carolina, and beyond.
DIRECTOR &
FOUNDER

Beth Sundstrom, PhD, MPH
Associate Professor,
Communication and Public Health

FACULTY

Merissa Ferrara, PhD, MA
Associate Professor,
Department of Communication

Christy Kollath-Cattano, PhD, MA
Assistant Professor
Department of Health and Human Performance

Jenna Stephenson Abetz, PhD, MA
Assistant Professor,
Department of Communication

Barbara Beckingham, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences

Cara Delay, PhD, MA
Associate Professor,
Department of History

Sarah Hatteburg, PhD, MA
Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology

Leslie Hart, PhD, MS
Assistant Professor
Department of Health and Human Performance
CURRENT (2017-2018) UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

- Neha Agnihotri
- Grace Benigni
- Samantha Bridges
- Susanna Crestetto
- Taite Daisey
- Regina Day
- Halle Friedman
- Elena Goldstein (Communication Intern)
- Mitchell Jones
- Brianna Kelly
- Anna Kooper
- Summer Lundquist
- Hannah Manzi
- Alexandria Mielcarek (Communication Intern)
- Anastasia Miletich
- Megan Minchak
- Jenesha Nance
- Kerri Vyge
- Joanna Walker
- Cora Webb (Communication Intern)
- Kerry Wischusen
- Sydney Zazzaro

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

- Ellie Smith
  Paid Assistantship; WHRT
- Madeleine Ware
  Paid Assistantship; WHRT and History
- Nicholas Mercer
  Paid Assistantship; Community Assistance Program
- Alexandria Cottingham
  Community Outreach Coordinator
INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH TOPICS

- Contraceptive use dynamics
- Telehealth
- Rural health
- HPV vaccination
- Pregnancy
- Childbirth
- Postpartum
- Reproductive health oral histories
- Reproductive justice
- Bystander intervention
- Substance abuse
- Mental health
- Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs)
- LGBTQ oral histories
- More!
# PROJECTS & GRANTS

## PROJECT

**Rainbow Row:**
Documenting LGBTQ Oral Histories in the Lowcountry
(2018- present)

**Reproductive Health Histories:**
A South Carolina Women’s Health Oral History Project
(February 2016 – Present)

*Abortion in Pre-Roe South Carolina (2018- present)*

**Investigating Exposure to Phthalates**
among Female and Male College Students
(October 2016 – Present)

### GRANT

**Donnelley Foundation (Dr. Delay and Dr. Sundstrom co-investigators)**

**Awarded:** $200,000

2016 Summer Undergraduate Research with Faculty (SURF) Grant, Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities, College of Charleston

**Awarded:** $6,500

**2016 Summer Undergraduate Research with Faculty (SURF) Grant, Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities, College of Charleston**

**Awarded:** $6,500

**College of Charleston Research and Development Grant**

**Awarded:** $5,000

**Submitted Grant:** *National Institutes of Health (NIH) R15: SAFE for HER: Strategies to Avoid Frequent Exposure (SAFE) to Harmful Endocrine-disrupting Risks (HER)*

**College of Charleston Research and Development Grant**

**Awarded:** $1,850

2016 MAYS Grant, Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities, College of Charleston

**Awarded:** $1,000

2016 Mays Grant, Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities, College of Charleston

**Awarded:** $2,170

Health and Human Performance R&D Grant

**Awarded:** $1,000
PROJECTS & GRANTS

PROJECT

Substance Abuse and Social Norming Campaign
(September 2016 – Present)

Understanding Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behavioral Determinants for Contraceptive Use Decision-Making among Reproductive-Aged Women
(January 2016-present)

Evaluating the Whoops Proof SC Birth Control Campaign
(August 2016 – Present)

LARC Messaging in South Carolina
(January 2017- present)

Increase LARC access at CofC: A theory-based health communication campaign
(January 2016- present)

GRANT

Counseling and Substance Abuse Services & Student Affairs
Awarded: $3,000

In partnership with Student Health Services (Dr. Sundstrom co-investigator)
Confidential Funding Source
Awarded: $30,000

Choose Well: The South Carolina Contraceptive Access Campaign, New Morning Foundation
Awarded: $17,850

The Graduate School, College of Charleston
Graduate Assistantship
Awarded: $12,400

Choose Well: The South Carolina Contraceptive Access Campaign, New Morning Foundation
Awarded: $15,000

2016 Summer Undergraduate Research with Faculty (SURF) Grant, Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities, College of Charleston
Awarded: $6,500

College of Charleston Dean’s Discretionary Funds Award
Awarded: $2,000
### PROJECT

**HPV Vaccination Social Media Campaign.**
Cervical Cancer Workgroup, South Carolina Cancer Alliance  
(January 2017- Present)

### GRANT

South Carolina Cancer Alliance  
*Awarded: $9,000*

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FROM MAY 2016 TO 2018, THE WOMEN’S HEALTH RESEARCH TEAM SECURED OVER $307,000 IN GRANT FUNDING
Outcomes

Publications

* = Student Co-Author


OUTCOMES

PUBLICATIONS


CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS


OUTCOMES

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (CONT)


OUTCOMES

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (CONT)


CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (CONT)


ABSTRACTS SUBMITTED TO CONFERENCES


SELECTED LOCAL & ON-CAMPUS PRESENTATIONS
SELECTED LOCAL & ON-CAMPUS PRESENTATIONS (CONT)


Sundstrom, B. (2016, October). Reproductive justice and women's voices: Evidence to help providers support women's reproductive decision-making. Grand Rounds. Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Charleston, S.C.


Dr. Leslie Hart was featured on BBC America's Planet Earth: Blue Plant II Season 1, Episode 8, "Dolphins and Plastic"

"Telehealth Research Aims to Improve Women's Health in Rural South Carolina"
Featured on SCetv: South Carolina’s public broadcasting, storytelling, and education network.

http://scetv.org/blog/telehealth/2016/telehealth-research-aims-improve-womens-health-rural-south-carolina
Why Major in Women and Gender Studies?
Major Session Discussion with Dr. Kollath-Cattano and Dr. Sundstrom
EVENTS AND OUTREACH

**Women’s Health Discussion!!!**

**Tuesday Nov. 14 in RSS Room 251 from 6:30-8:30**

Showing of the first episode of Hulu’s The Handmaid’s Tale & Reproductive Rights Discussion with the Women’s Health Research Team

In celebration of Gender Equity Week the Gender and Sexuality Equity Center in Collaboration with Women’s and Gender Studies Presents ...

**REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**

A Global Perspective

Wed March 22nd | 5-6pm | Wells Fargo Auditorium | Beatty 115

Roundtable discussion with experts on the current state of global reproductive rights with focus on Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the U.S. Panelists include Dr. Beth Sundstrom (Communication), Dr. Chris Day (Political Science), Dr. Debbie Billings from Choose Well SC, and visiting Yale University historian Dr. Laura Kelly.
Diálogo con mi abuela / Dialog with My Grandmother: Listening to Cuban Voices
Innovative Teaching and Learning in the Liberal Arts and Sciences, Small Grants Program
Awarded: $1,500

Monday, April 24, 2017
6:00 p.m.
Alumni Memorial Hall
Randolph Hall
ONLINE FEATURES

2018: Be the Voice Contraception Webinar
With Beth Sundstrom and Women’s Rights Empowerment Network (WREN)
https://www.bethevoicesc.org/updates/contraception-webinar-featuring-dr-beth-sundstrom/

Power to Decide: the campaign to prevent unplanned pregnancy
https://thenationalcampaign.org/resource/whoops-proof-birth-control

2017: With the start of the new school year, organizations aim to help women and girls access pads and tampons
By Mary Katherine Wildeman, The Post and Courier
http://www.postandcourier.com/features/with-the-start-of-the-new-school-year-organizations-aim/article_f8a73c6a-8347-11e7-90c5-0f43cad4397c.html?
utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=user-share

2017: College of Charleston takes new approach to sexual misconduct education
By Brad Streicher, Live 5 News

2017: Free the Pill: Support Dependable Contraceptive Access
By Beth Sundstrom, The Huffington Post
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/free-the-pill-support-dependable-contraceptive-access_us_5939b563e4b0c5a35c9d9afa

2016: CofC Professors Giving Voice to Women’s Health
By Alicia Lutz, The College Today
http://today.cofc.edu/2016/05/19/cofc-professors-giving-voice-women-health-needs/

2016: Researchers identify inaccuracies in South Carolina abortion document
By Lauren Sausser, The Post and Courier, Charleston, S.C.
http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160308/PC1211/160309511
2018: Abortion in South Carolina History Project
By Cara Delay, Cora Webb, Regina Day, and Madeleine Ware, Nursing Cilo

2017: The Mommy Instinct and Vaccinations
By Kristin Brig, Nursing Cilo

2017: Back to the Back Alley? Abortion Rights and Realities in the Trump Era
By Cara Delay, Nursing Clio

2017: At the Mercy of the Sea: Women, Reproduction, and Europe’s Migrant Crisis
By Cara Delay, Nursing Clio

2017: Support Dependable Contraceptive Access
By Beth Sundstrom, Birdsongs: South Carolina Women’s Rights Empowerment Network’s (WREN) Blog
https://www.scwren.org/blog/support- dependable-contraceptive-access/

2017: Obstetric Violence in Ireland’s Past and Present
By Cara Delay and Beth Sundstrom, Perceptions of Pregnancy: Researchers’ Network
https://perceptionsofpregnancy.com/2017/01/02/obstetric-violence-in-irelands-past-and-present/#more- 28979

2017: Reproductive Justice: Uncovering the Voices of Women to Address Disparities within the United States
By Ellie Smith, MaMSIE, Mapping Maternal Subjectivities, Identities and Ethics Blog
ON-GOING CAMPAIGNS:

IT’S YOUR PLACE: A BYSTANDER INTERVENTION CAMPAIGN ON CAMPUS

YOU HAVE OPTIONS: A CONTRACEPTIVE CHOICE CAMPAIGN ON CAMPUS
NEW CAMPAIGNS: SOCIAL NORMING

76% of on-campus CofC students are not current marijuana users

WE MAKE BETTER CHOICES THAN YOU THINK

over 70% of CofC students are not current marijuana users

WE MAKE BETTER CHOICES THAN YOU THINK

*Based on College of Charleston student responses on the 2018 CoC Alcohol and Drug Survey

*Based on College of Charleston student responses on the 2018 CoC Alcohol and Drug Survey
Be the Voice

I commit to doing all I can to ensure access to reproductive health care for South Carolina women and our families.

#BeTheVoiceSC
A campaign by the SC Women's Rights Empowerment Network (WREN)
WHRT SIGNED ON TO STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Oral Contraceptives (OCs) Over-the-Counter (OTC) Working Group is a coalition of reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations, nonprofit research and advocacy groups, university-based researchers, and prominent clinicians who share a commitment to providing all women of reproductive age easier access to safe, effective, acceptable, and affordable contraceptives.
AWARDS

FACULTY AWARDS

Beth Sundstrom
William V. Moore Distinguished Teacher-Scholar Award, College of Charleston, 2018
Fulbright U.S. Scholar Research Grant Award, Ireland, 2018
Finalist, 120 under 40: The New Generation of Family Planning Leaders, 2017
Charlie Magazine’s 50 Most Progressive, Charleston S.C., 2016
Outstanding Faculty of the Year, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, ExCEL Award, 2016

Leslie Hart
Outstanding Faculty of the Year for the School of Education, Health and Human Performance, ExCEL Award, 2018

Merissa Ferrara
Distinguished Teaching Award, Celebration of Faculty, College of Charleston, 2016

Cara Delay
Carol Gold Best Article Award, Coordinating Council for Women in History, 2016

RESEARCH ASSISTANT AWARDS

Kristin Brig
- Five years full funding for PhD awarded by Johns Hopkins University, 2017

Susanna Crestetto
- Young Investigator Award, Health Education and Human Performance Department, 2018

Hannah Manzi
- Young Investigator Award, Health Education and Human Performance Department, 2018

Stephanie Meier
- Four years full funding through the Ross Fellowship awarded by Purdue University, 2017
- Outstanding Student of the Year, the Graduate School, ExCEL Award, 2016
May 19, 2016

Dr. Andrea DeMaria and Dr. Beth Sundstrom are co-directors of the Women’s Health Research Team at the College of Charleston. If you dropped either of their resumes on your foot it would hurt. A lot. And if you’re going to have a chat with them, you better have a good breakfast because you’re going to need it to keep up.

DeMaria and Sundstrom are two empowered women on a mission to empower other women. Actually, they’re on a mission to empower everyone, so nobody is excused from their elevating tractor beams. DeMaria and Sundstrom met in 2012 and realized they shared a passion for giving women a voice in their reproductive decisions.

“When women have control over their bodies they have control over their lives,” Sundstrom says.

Together they created the Women’s Health Research Team, whose purpose is to investigate women’s health issues, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and share research findings at both a clinical and lay-level. So that’s what they’re doing, but it’s how they’re doing it that will blow your mind.

“The way we get work done is progressive in that we’ve developed a system for 25 people to do individual and team-based research,” Dr. DeMaria says.

Their innovative model involves a research team composed of faculty and students passionate about understanding a women’s world from a holistic standpoint. The team includes communication experts, public health professionals, historians, anthropologists, biochemists, psychologists, and others who have a window on how women think, interact, and make decisions about their health. For example, as part of a campaign to increase bystander intervention in sexual assault, this team recently drew on the functions of Yik Yak, a social media app that allows users to participate in anonymous discussion threads with other people in a 5-mile radius. The team is also working on how to erase cervical cancer, how telehealth technology can help at-risk women gain access to healthcare, how social media influences women’s health decisions, and about seven million other game-changers.

So, women of South Carolina, prepare to be empowered. **Written by: Robin Howard, Photo By: Karson Photography**
RESEARCH ASSISTANT AWARDS (CONT)

Alexandra Mielcarek
- Summer Undergraduate Research with Faculty (SURF) Grant recipient, 2018

Anastasia Miletich
- Career Center Internship Award, 2018
- Summer Undergraduate Research with Faculty (SURF) Grant recipient, 2018

Grace Moxley
- Awarded Robert W. Woodruff Fellowship by Emory University School of Medicine, 2017
- First Place Poster Presentation Award, Women’s Health Research Day (WHRD), Medical University of South Carolina, 2017

Jenesha Nance
- Outstanding Student of the Year, the Honors College, ExCEL Award, 2016

Ellie Smith
- People’s Choice Award, Graduate Poster Session, 2017 & 2018
- Outstanding Student of the Year, Graduate School, ExCEL Award, 2018
- Fully funded PhD in Public Health at Oregon State University
- Recipient of Distinguished Provost Scholarship, Oregon State University, 2018
- Recipient of Schad Fellowship, Oregon State University, 2018

Cora Webb
- Renowned Role Model Award, Health Education and Human Performance Department, 2018
- School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) Scholars Award, 2018
- Skirt! Scholarship Recipient, 2017
- Outstanding Student of the Year, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, ExCEL Award, 2017
GRADUATES AND SUCCESS STORIES

Andrea L. DeMaria, Ph.D., M.S.
Assistant Professor at Purdue University in the College of Health and Human Sciences

Helen Adams, MA
Working in the Office of Public Relations at the Medical University of South Carolina

Annalise Baker-Whitcomb
Program Assistant at the Medical University of South Carolina Center for Telehealth

Ashlan Bishop
Third Grade Teacher, Palm Beach County School District

Katie Booth
Research Assistant (RA) at Public Health Management Cooperation

Kristin Brig, MA
Pursuing a PhD in the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University

Susanna Crestetto
Pursuing MPH Program for Biostatistics at Medical University of South Carolina

Moriah Alten-Flagg
Healthcare Assistant at Planned Parenthood South Atlantic

Ellie Flock
External Affairs Officer for New Local Government Network, London, United Kingdom

Colby Gabel, MPH
Pursuing an MPH at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Maja Grzejdziak
Clinical Research Coordinator at PMG Research

Mamiko Higa
Clinical research coordinator part-time grant coordinator with the Smoke Free Lowcountry Coalition

Annabel Jones, MA
Working as a Digital Communication Specialist with TransLoc

Brianna Kelly
Pursuing MPH at Emory University

Hannah Manzi
Pursuing clinical practice experience in preparation for medical school applications

Stephanie McInnis
Qualitative Research Consultant, International Planned Parenthood Federation
FUTURE PLANS

GRADUATES AND SUCCESS STORIES

**Stephanie Meier, MA**  
Pursuing a PhD in Health Disparities at Purdue University

**Grace Moxley**  
Robert W. Woodruff Fellowship to attend the Emory University School of Medicine on a full scholarship.

**Janesha Nance**  
Pursuing MPH at Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina

**Karishma Patel**  
Pursuing a Master of Health Administration Program at the Medical University of South Carolina

**Jackie Payne, MPH**  
Obtained a Master of Public Health (MPH) at Emory University

**Nely Rusher-Clark**  
Health Center Assistant, Planned Parenthood

**Ellie Smith**  
Pursuing PhD in Public Health at Oregon State University

**Kianna Thomas**  
Research Assistant (RA) at MUSC College of Nursing; Line therapist at Autism Inc.

**Joanna Walker**  
Lab Assistant Position at Bozeman Health in Bozeman, Montana

**Cora Webb**  
Attending study abroad in Europe with Jewish Studies: Tracing the Holocaust

**Kerry Wischusen**  
Teaching meditation at Still Soul Studio and yoga at Charleston Power Yoga; Developing mindfulness program at I’On Club, Charleston, SC

**Abigail Wisely**  
Obtaining clinical hours for Physician Assistant School
Special thanks to Dr. Deborah Billings for leading a robust discussion with Gloria Rolando about "Dialogue with my Grandmother"!

Join us at 6:30pm tonight at Gage Hall for a Community Awareness Candlelight Vigil. The evening's program will be a mixture of remembrance and a celebration of life. A series of speakers and performances will highlight the need to spark dialogue throughout our diverse community regarding HIV and the crisis that Charleston faces.

Having a great time at the Yes! I'm a Feminist event. As a faculty member of the WHRT, Dr. Cara Delay updated us on the amazing growth of the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

We are so proud of our Women's Health Research Team students! Special thank you to Grace Moxley for organizing and hosting this fantastic event!
ON CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Advocates for Youth
Cervical Cancer-Free South Carolina
Charleston Birth Place
Charleston County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Council
Choose Well
Chrysalis Women's Health Collaborative

**College of Charleston**
- Department of Communication
- Department of Health and Human Performance
- Division of Student Affairs
- Honors College and Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities (URCA)
- Interdisciplinary Public Health Program
- School of Education, Health and Human Performance
- School of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Student Health Services
- The University of Charleston, South Carolina
- Women’s and Gender Studies Program

Hollings Cancer Center
Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)
New Morning Foundation
People Against Rape
South Carolina Coalition for Healthy Families, Member
Women's Rights and Empowerment Network (WREN)
University of South Carolina
CONTACT US

FOLLOW THE WHRT!

- WomensHealthResearchTeam
- @WHRT_CofC
- CofCWHRT
- WHRT@cofc.edu

DIRECTOR
Beth L. Sundstrom, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor, Department of Communication
Faculty, Public Health
Director, Women's Health Research Team
Graduate Faculty, University of Charleston, South Carolina
BLS@cofc.edu

http://hhs.cofc.edu/whrt/