

# College of Public Health News

April 4, 2017

Georgia Southern University

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## Georgia Southern Receives Grant to Study Prenatal and Early Childhood Biomass Smoke Exposure and Child Neurodevelopment

April 4, 2017



Dr. Joseph Telfair will serve as a Co-Investigator and Principal Evaluator to study biomass smoke exposure. Indoor air pollution from combustion of solid fuels for cooking has been identified as one of the ten most important risk factors in global burden of disease. This study will add to the body of knowledge on solid fuel use as a risk factor for birth outcome and infant neurodevelopment, and benefit from a well-established Indo-US collaboration among investigators with diverse and supplementary backgrounds while at the same time fostering technology transfer between the two partner institutions in Sri Lanka.

The current research is an expansion of an ongoing R21 study in Sri Lanka funded the National institutes of Environmental Health Sciences entitled “Prenatal Exposure to Solid Fuel Smoke and Birth Outcomes in Sri Lanka” (UAB IRB protocol number F100622014). In the R21 study we have currently enrolled 719 pregnant mothers. The study is now closed to enrollment. Mothers were entered in their first three months of pregnancy and followed until delivery. The healthy newborns are followed until 6 months of age. We are conducting assessments of exposure to pollutants from solid fuel smoke (particulate matter less than 2.5 $\mu\text{m}$  (PM2.5) and carbon monoxide (CO)) in each trimester of pregnancy and studying whether the exposure will have detrimental effects on infant brain development at birth and at 6 months.

Dr. Joseph Telfair currently serves as a Professor and Dual Chair at the [Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health](#) Georgia Southern University and [APHA](#) President-Elect.

# Georgia Southern Receives Grant to Optimize Care of Adolescents and Adults with Sickle Cell Disease

April 4, 2017



Dr. Joseph Telfair will serve as support to RTI by providing sickle cell disease assessment expertise to the data coordinating center and the clinical sites that will inform the design and execution of interventions to increase the utilization of treatments and therapies and, improve the quality of life and health outcomes for persons with sickle cell disease.

As an essential part of the team, Dr. Telfair will provide expert advice in:

- effective strategies for engaging community stakeholders and patient advocacy groups in the research design
- effective strategies to recruit and enroll registry participants
- understanding health disparities and barriers to care
- inform patient and caregiver outcomes
- participation in SCDIC Steering Committee meetings and activities

Dr. Joseph Telfair currently serves as a Professor and Dual Chair at the [Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health](#) Georgia Southern University and [APHA](#) President-Elect.