

**NEW FACULTY 2008-2009**  
**BIOGRAPHIES**  
(permanent and clinical appointments)

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## College of Architecture + the Arts

**Anthony Galaska**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Theatre

Tony Galaska (Lighting Design) received his M.F.A. in lighting design from Purdue University, a B.F.A from The University of Wisconsin Stevens Point and an A.A. from The University of Wisconsin Waukesha. Prior to joining the faculty at FIU, Tony worked as a designer in NYC with companies such as Toy Box Theatre Company, The Gallery Players, Wings Theatre Company, Metropolitan Playhouse, and New Perspective Theatre Company. He also works regionally with The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey and The Texas Shakespeare Festival.

At FIU he has designed *Pericles*, *The Birds*, *Springs Awakening* and *The Cook*. He has received Faculty excellence awards from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for his lighting design of *The Cook* and *Springs Awakening*. Tony is focused on continuing to research new methods of presentation techniques for designers and the integration of technology to the preplanning collaborative process of a production and the staged performance of a production.

**Thomas Spiegelhalter**, Assistant Professor  
School of Architecture

Thomas Spiegelhalter engages in numerous environmental-driven projects throughout Europe and the U.S. such as contextual solar, zero-fossil energy, passive and low-energy building projects; large-scale sustainability master planning and consultancies; redevelopment projects for abandoned post-industrial architectures and landscapes; engineered suspension bridges; and preservation and revitalization projects. He has received 52 prizes, awards, and honors in European and U.S sustainability competitions, and has lectured at international conferences and workshops about environmental design throughout the world. Prior to joining FIU, Professor Spiegelhalter held academic appointments at the University of Southern California (USC) School of Architecture, the University of Minnesota Center for Sustainable Building Research, and at the Center for Building Performance and Diagnostics at Carnegie-Mellon University School of Architecture and College of Fine Arts. He is the Principal of Studio Thomas Spiegelhalter, and earned his Master of Design (Meisterschueler) at the University of the Arts in Berlin.

## College of Arts and Sciences

**Daniel Bagner**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Psychology

Dr. Bagner is a licensed Clinical Psychologist who specializes in working with children, adolescents, and families. He earned his B.A. in Psychology from Washington University, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Florida. He went on to become a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Clinical Child Psychology at the Brown Center for the Study of Children at Risk, which is affiliated with the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. He was also a Child Intervention, Prevention, and Services (CHIPS) Fellow at the National Institute of Mental Health-funded institute at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Bagner received the Scientist-Practitioner Award and the Florence Shafer Award for Excellence in Psychotherapeutic Counseling from the Department of Clinical and Health Psychology at the University of Florida. He has obtained research funding from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute of Mental Health.

**David Brookes**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Physics

A native of South Africa, Dr. Brookes completed his B.Sc. in Physics and Applied Mathematics and his B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Theoretical Physics at the University of Cape Town, South Africa; his M.A. in Physics at Brandeis University; and his

Ph.D. in that subject at Rutgers University. He went on to become a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Physics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for three years. Dr. Brookes has held teaching positions at Rutgers University, Brandeis University, and the University of Capetown. His research interests include the role of language in learning physics, representation and communication in science, and designing learning environments to promote growth of students' understanding of the process and epistemology of science. He has made presentations at conferences and universities in the U.S. and Canada.

**Valentina Bruk-Lee**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Psychology

Prior to joining FIU, Dr. Bruk-Lee was a Senior Research Scientist of Global Content Development at PreVisor, where she was in charge of developing assessments for use in employee selection by global clients. She was also employed as a Professional Services Consultant at PreVisor, and as a Senior Research Associate at Personnel Decisions Research Institutes, Inc. Dr. Bruk-Lee's major research interests include occupational health and personnel selection. She holds a B.S. in Communication from the University of Miami, and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from the University of South Florida. She has received grants from organizations including the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the University of South Florida. Her research has been published in leading APA journals such as *the Journal of Occupational Health Psychology*.

**Shaoming Cheng**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Public Administration, SIPA

Dr. Shaoming Cheng joins the Department of Public Administration as an Assistant Professor. He received his Ph.D. in Public Policy from George Mason University. He previously served as a Research Assistant Professor at the Regional Research Institute at West Virginia University. Dr. Cheng's research focuses on areas including businesses' location strategies and location of economic activities, and the reasons why businesses prosper and decline. His dissertation and peer-reviewed journal articles have won numerous research awards including the Charles M. Tiebout Prize in Regional Science of the Western Regional Science Association, the 2006 William H. Miernyk Research Excellence Award, and Second Place Winner of the M. Jarvin Emerson Student Paper Competition of the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association. Dr. Cheng is currently serving as the Principal Investigator of a two-year research, education, and outreach integrated project funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**Maricel Cigales**, Associate Chair and Instructor  
Department of Psychology

Coming soon

**Anthony De Caprio**, Associate Professor and Program Director  
Department of Chemistry

Coming soon

**Debra Dean**, Assistant Professor  
Department of English

A native of Seattle, Professor Dean worked as an actor in the New York theater for nearly a decade before opting for the life of a writer. Her best selling debut novel, *The Madonnas of Leningrad*, was a New York Times Editors' Choice, a Borders Original Voice, a Booklist Top Ten Novel, and an American Library Association Notable Book of the Year. The book has been published in 17 languages. Her critically-acclaimed collection of short stories, *Confessions of a Falling Woman*, won the Paterson Fiction Prize and a Florida Book Award. Professor Dean has held academic appointments at the University of Miami, Seattle Pacific University, Bellevue Community College, and the University of Oregon. She earned her B.A. in English and Drama from Whitman College and her M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Oregon.

**Kenneth Feeley**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Biological Sciences

Dr. Feeley, an expert in tropical conservation and climate change, joins the FIU faculty as an Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences and the research team of the Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden in Miami. At FIU and at Fairchild, Dr. Feeley will teach undergraduate and graduate courses, serve as a mentor to research students, and lead expeditions to the tropics. He will also continue his research studying the role of biotic and abiotic factors in regulating tropical plant and animal communities and work toward a better understanding of the global impact of climate change. Dr. Feeley earned his B.S. in Biology at Wake Forest University and his Ph.D. in Biology at Duke University. He was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Center for Tropical Forest Science at Harvard University and at the Andes Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research Group in Peru.

**Jenna Gibbs**, Assistant Professor  
Department of History

Dr. Gibbs comes to FIU from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), where she was an Assistant Professor of History and an Ahmanson-Getty Postdoctoral Fellow. She earned her B.A. in History, her M.A. in European History, and her Ph.D. in History at UCLA. Dr. Gibbs has held numerous fellowships including the UCLA Chancellor's Dissertation Fellowship; the Library Company of Philadelphia, Albert Greenfield Dissertation Fellowship; and the UCLA Center for European and Eurasian Studies, Summer Dissertation Fellowship. She was also a Research Associate at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies. In addition to her academic honors, Dr. Gibbs was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award, presented by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, for her work with underprivileged students in non-profit theater programs in Los Angeles Unified School District inner-city middle schools.

**Michael Gillespie**, Professor  
Department of English

Prior to his FIU appointment, Dr. Gillespie was on the faculty of Marquette University for nearly three decades. He began teaching there in 1980, and was promoted to Associate and then to Professor of English. In 2000 he became the inaugural recipient of the Louise Edna Goeden Chair of English. He held that chair during the remainder of his time at Marquette. Dr. Gillespie has published, as an author or editor, eighteen books and over 50 critical essays. He has written at length on the works of Irish writers including James Joyce, Samuel Beckett, Brendan Behan, Seamus Heaney, and Oscar Wilde. He has received fellowships or grants from organizations including the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Council of Learned Societies. He holds a B.S. from the University of Illinois, and an M.A. and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin.

**Paula Gillespie**, Associate Professor and Director of the Creative Writing Center  
Department of English

Paula Gillespie completed her undergraduate and graduate work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. For 29 years, she taught at Marquette University, first as an Adjunct, then as a Visiting Associate Professor, then a tenured Associate Professor. She became Director of the Writing Center at Marquette in 1987, and has engaged in and led writing across the curriculum projects of various kinds since 1985. In 1993, she completed her doctorate, and since then has been active in

publishing and involvements in conferences. She has published as an author or editor two books on writing center research and pedagogy and one of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, as well as 17 book chapters and articles. Her ongoing research is on the long- and short-term effects of tutoring on tutor alumni. She has held leadership roles including Secretary, Vice-President, and then President of the International Writing Centers Association. During her tenure as President, she helped establish and co-lead the first Writing Center Summer Institute.

**Jeffrey Gruenewald**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Criminal Justice

Dr. Gruenewald earned his B.A. in Criminal Justice and Sociology and his M.A. in Criminal Justice from Indiana University-Bloomington, and his Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University. He has been a Pre-Doctoral Fellow with the Extremist Homicide Project of the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) since 2007. Dr. Gruenewald received the Best Student Research Poster/Presentation Award and two graduate fellowships from START, and a graduate assistantship at the Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice. His research and teaching interests lie in the areas of domestic terrorism and extremism; homicide and other serious violence; restorative justice and other diversionary programs; and media representations of race, gender, and violent crime.

**James Heffernan**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Biological Sciences

Dr. Heffernan has a joint appointment in the Southeastern Environmental Research Center (SERC), and will also work with the NSF-funded Long Term Ecological Research program on the Florida Coastal Everglades. He received his Ph.D. in Biology from Arizona State University. Previously, he was a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the University of Florida Water Institute and the School of Forest Resources and Conservation. Dr. Heffernan's research aims to understand the interactions between ecological and geomorphic processes as drivers of the distribution and structure of wetlands, the consequences of that structure for nutrient transport and transformation, and the effects of human activities on those patterns and processes. His post-doctoral research at the University of Florida addresses the role of spring-fed rivers as nitrogen sinks and the relationship between nitrogen loading, algal blooms, and denitrification by bacteria.

**Joseph Lichter**, Instructor  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Dr. Lichter earned his B.S. in Chemistry and Biochemistry from Florida State University and his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Emory University. Prior to joining the FIU faculty, he was a Research Assistant at the Department of Chemistry at Emory University, and also held that position at the Department of Biochemistry and Chemistry at Florida State University and at the Department of Biochemistry and Chemistry at Arizona State University. Dr. Lichter was formerly employed as a Forensics Consultant at Robbins, Tunkey, Ross, Amsel, Raben, & Waxman, P.A., and served as an Instructor in Chemistry at Emory University. He held the National Science Foundation GK12 Teaching Fellowship, and the Dean's Teaching Fellowship and the Piedmont Project Fellowship at Emory University. He also won the Emory University Chemistry Department Teaching Assistant of the Year Award for General Chemistry two years in a row.

**Cristina Martinez-Sanz**, Instructor  
Department of Modern Languages

Dr. Martinez-Sanz completed her B.A. in Spanish Philology at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Hispanic Linguistics at the University of Ottawa. From 1997-2007, she was awarded the Ontario Graduate Scholarship; the University of Ottawa Excellence Scholarship; two Admissions Scholarships from the University of Ottawa, and the Socrates-Erasmus Scholarship from the Universidad Complutense. She also received the Research Grant from Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (FGPS) at the University of Ottawa, the Research

Grant from the Association of Part-time Professors at that university, and a travel grant from FGPS. Dr. Martinez-Sanz has published extensively and has presented at conferences in Canada, New Mexico, Mexico, the U.S., and Spain.

**Jeremy Pettit**, Associate Professor  
Department of Psychology

Dr. Pettit graduated from Lipscomb University with a B.A. in Psychology, and went on to earn his M.S. and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Florida State University. He completed a residency in clinical psychology at the University of Texas Health Science Center. From 2003-2009, he held positions including Associate and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology and Director of the Adult Assessment Clinic at the University of Houston, and Director of the Mood Disorder and Suicide Prevention Program at the University of Houston Mood Disorder Clinic. Dr. Pettit's research has been funded by organizations including the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, and the University of Houston Small Grants Program. He has written two books, six chapters in edited books, and more than 50 journal articles.

**Andrea Queeley**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies (SIPA)

Dr. Queeley graduated from Brown University with a B.A. in Psychology and Afro-American Studies and completed a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology at the City University of New York (CUNY). She was a Zemurray-Stone Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellow at Tulane University. At CUNY, she was awarded the President's Dissertation Year Fellowship, a Writing Fellowship, and a Presidential Fellowship, as well as receiving the Pamela Galiber Award for the Outstanding African-American Student and the Dean K. Harrison Award. Dr. Queeley was a Consultant with the Oxfam Gulf Coast Research Project in New Orleans. She has participated in several research projects in the U.S., investigating issues concerning the impact of welfare reform legislation, urban redevelopment, and public health and safety. She is extensively published in her field of expertise.

**Juan Pablo Sarmiento**, Research Associate  
Department of Politics and International Relations

Dr. Juan Pablo Sarmiento is a Research Professor at the Latin American and Caribbean Center within the College of Arts & Sciences, and the Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work. Dr. Sarmiento is a Medical Doctor and Surgeon, graduated from the University of the Rosario. He has a master's degree in Medical Education from the University of the Sabana, Colombia and a master's degree in Project Administration from the University for International Cooperation, Costa Rica. He completed post-graduate studies in Disaster Management in Oxford, Great Britain; High Level Public Administration at the Colombian Superior School of Public Administration, and a residence in Nutrition at Tufts University. He worked in Colombia for the Civil Defense, Central Military Hospital, Ministry of Health, Colombian Red Cross, and Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. Dr. Sarmiento has worked as a consultant for the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO); he was member of United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) teams, and, finally, he worked for ten years as Technical Manager of the regional risk management program that the International Resources Group is implementing in Latin American and the Caribbean for the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA). He has 27 years of professional and research experience, and several publications in the fields of health, health education, risk assessment, and disaster management in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Rebecca Vega Thurber**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Biological Sciences

Dr. Vega Thurber joins the university as an Assistant Professor in the Marine Science Program at the Biscayne Bay Campus. She earned her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences at Stanford University. Prior to her FIU appointment, she was an NSF Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Department of Biology at San Diego State University. Dr. Vega Thurber's research

examines the relationship between marine host species, their bacterial and viral symbionts, and environmental stress. Her doctoral research at Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station explored how apoptosis (programmed cell death) is utilized by sea urchin embryos to combat chemical contamination. Her research has subsequently broadened to encompass changes in whole microbial communities using the techniques of comparative metagenomics (sequencing of genetic materials recovered directly from natural samples). Her current research focuses on viruses as agents of disease on coral reefs and how viral abundance is altered in areas of high human impact.

**Daniel Wescott, Lecturer**  
Department of Biological Sciences

Dr. Wescott is a Skeletal Biologist with research interests in functional anatomy, skeletal biology (forensic anthropology and bioarchaeology), human variation/adaptation, and human growth and development. He comes to FIU from Florida Atlantic University, where he was a Research Associate in the Department of Anthropology. He has held academic appointments including Assistant Professor and Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at University of Missouri-Columbia, and Visiting Instructor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Dr. Wescott was awarded the Forensic Science Foundation's Acorn/Lucas Research Grant, the University of Missouri Research Board Grant, the University of Missouri Research Council Grant and that organization's Summer Research Fellowship, and the State Historical Society of Missouri Richard S. Brownlee Fund Grant. He obtained his B.A. and M.A. in Anthropology at Wichita State University, and his Ph.D. in that subject at the University of Tennessee.

## College of Education

**Douglas Robertson, Professor and Dean Undergraduate Education**

Dr. Robertson received his Ph.D. from the Department of Geography at Syracuse University in 1978. He has authored or co-edited six books, numerous book chapters and peer review publications. He is the Senior Editor of the book series on college teaching published by New Forums Press. In addition, he is the Editor of *Thriving in Academe*, the college teaching section in the National Education Association's *Higher Education Advocate*. He has won several teaching awards while serving as a tenured full professor at four universities.

Dr. Robertson has been actively involved in significant innovations in American higher education for 31 years (e.g., general education reform, civic engagement, adult higher education, faculty development, curricular development, program development, strategic planning, instructional technology) and has twenty-two years of successful experience as an academic administrator in undergraduate and graduate education. Dr. Robertson will be responsible for all current programs in the Office of Undergraduate Education and will also develop a new strategic plan to enhance both the academic and administrative support program for all undergraduates.

## College of Engineering and Computing

**Hai Deng, Assistant Professor**  
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Dr. Deng earned his B.S. in Electrical Engineering at Anhui University, his M. S. at the Beijing Institute of Technology in China, and his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to joining FIU, he was an Assistant Professor at the University of North Texas and at the University of New Orleans. From 1990-2001, Dr. Deng

held positions including Senior Staff Engineer-Scientist and Project Leader at Motorola, Inc., and Senior Principal Engineer and Deputy Chief Design Engineer at the Beijing Institute of Radio Measurement in China. His expertise is in areas including radio frequency identification chips/tags (RFID), military radar technology, weather radar technology, signal processing, HDTV, wireless communications, and sensors. Dr. Deng's research has been funded by organizations such as the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Peterson Air Force Base, Ohio; the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome, N.Y.; and the 2007 Air Force SBIR program.

**Gang Quan**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Dr. Quan comes to FIU from the University of South Carolina, where he was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering for seven years. He was previously employed as a Software Engineer at the Institute of Remote Sensing and Applications at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, China. Dr. Quan received an NSF Career Award in 2006, and his paper was selected as one of The Most Influential Papers of 10 Years Design, Automation, and Test in Europe Conference (DATE) in 2007. He holds a B.S in Electronic Engineering from Tsinghua University in China; an M.S. in Information Systems from the Institute of Remote Sensing Applications, Chinese Academy of Sciences; and a Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering from the University of Notre Dame. Currently, Dr. Quan is working on two NSF-funded research projects.

**Jinpeng Wei**, Assistant Professor  
School of Computing and Information Sciences

Dr. Wei holds a B.S. and an M.Eng. in Computer Science from Wuhan University in China, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Computer Science from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He has been a Graduate Research Assistant at Georgia Institute of Technology. Prior to that, he worked in Beijing, China for five years as a Senior Software Engineer at Digital China Limited and as a Software Engineer for Centell Technologies Corporation. Dr. Wei specializes in systems software security and applications of systems virtualization to build scalable, reliable, and high-performance applications such as location-based services, event stream processing systems, and service-oriented computer architectures.

## College of Law

**Alexander Acosta**, Dean and Professor

Alexander Acosta has joined FIU as the new Dean of the College of Law. Since May 2005, Mr. Acosta has served as U.S. Attorney for one of the four largest districts in the nation, made up of 284 attorneys and encompassing nine counties, from Monroe to Highlands. He placed particular focus on health care fraud and gang and gun-related violence prosecutions, having seen an increase in the prosecutions in both of these areas of more than 30%. Some of his high-profile cases included the prosecutions of Jack Abramoff, Palm Beach County Commission Chairman Tony Masilotti, the prosecution of Jose Padilla etc. Prior to his appointment as U.S. Attorney General, Mr. Acosta served as the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice, the first Hispanic to serve in this function. A Miami native, Mr. Acosta earned his degrees from Harvard College and Harvard Law School before clerking with Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito, when he served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

**Michael Whiteman**, Associate Dean & Library Director

Michael Whiteman received his B.A. from Concordia University in Canada, his J.D. from the University of Louisville, and his M.S.L.I.S. from Simmons College. He has worked in law libraries since 1994, when he started as an Evening Legal Reference Librarian at the Boston College School of Law. Since then, he has worked at the University of Louisville



School Law Library and the Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University, where he was the Associate Dean for Law Library Services & Information Technology. Professor Whiteman has taught Legal Research, Advanced Legal Research, Online Advanced Legal Research and Criminal Law. His research interests focus on distance education and on the way technology has impacted the practice of law. He has published many scholarly articles, including the 2005 Law Library Journal Article of the Year.

## **Wertheim College of Medicine**

**Juan M. Acuña**, Associate Professor, Department of Human & Molecular Genetics;  
Director, Data Center

Dr. Acuña, M.D., M.Sc. served as Director of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) National Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Program from 2005-2008. A native of Colombia, Dr. Acuña received his M.D. from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Medical School, Bogota Colombia. His clinical training (Obstetrics and Gynecology) was at Universidad Militar Nueva Granda (Bogota). This was followed by further training in the U.S. in Clinical Genetics (Mount Sinai Medical Center, University of Wisconsin), Fetal Medicine (Fetal Medicine Foundation, UK), Clinical Epidemiology (INCLIN, UJ), and Field Epidemiology (Epidemic Intelligence Service program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta).

Dr. Acuña has extensive experience in (high risk) Obstetrics and Gynecology, clinical genetics, and Clinical and Public Health/Epidemiology at the level of both teaching and practice as well as in leading teams through needs assessment processes, strategic planning and implementation phases of systems creation. At FIU Dr. Acuña will construct and direct biostatistics, epidemiology, and evidence-based medicine curriculum. The center he directs is charged with data collection and analysis for the FIU COM, its innovative Medicine and Society Program, and affiliated institutions.

**Alexander I. AgoulNIK**, Professor  
Department of Human and Molecular Genetics

Prior to joining FIU Dr. AgoulNIK was tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, USA. He received his Ph.D. from the Russian Academy of Science at the Institute of Cytology and Genetics, Novosibirsk, Russia in 1987 and took postdoctoral training at the Max Planck Institute for Biology, Tübingen, Germany. He joined the faculties of University of Tennessee, Memphis in 1992 and Baylor College of Medicine in 1995. In 2005 he was promoted to the position of tenured Associate Professor.

Dr. AgoulNIK's main research interests include male and female reproductive tract development, germ cell biology, tumorigenesis, and role played by peptide and steroid hormones in these processes. He has published more than 80 research papers and book chapters. Sentinel work has focused on discovery of mouse genes having human counterparts. He exploited transgenic technology to discover the gene GREAT, which causes cytorchidism in humans and is related to insulin-like 3 receptor. He discovered relaxin receptor (LGR7), pivotal for promotion of prostate cancer and intracellular signaling. With Dr. Colin Bishop, Dr. AgoulNIK discovered an autosomal gene requisite for male differentiation. He has trained numerous post-doctorial and medical fellows, residents and students. His reputation is international, presenting work at numerous scientific conferences such as Gordon Conferences. Dr. AgoulNIK has served as grant reviewer for NIH. Research in his laboratory is supported by grants from NICHD, NCI and other research foundations.

**Irina AgoulNIK**, Associate Professor  
Department of Cellular Biology & Pharmacology

Dr. Agoulnik comes to FIU from the Baylor College of Medicine where she was an assistant professor in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology. She earned her Ph.D. at the Institute of Cytology and Genetics in Russia and did a postdoctoral fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine.

A cancer researcher and cell biologist, she is widely published in top academic journals on the subjects of prostate cancer and steroid receptor signaling. Her current research examines hormone resistance in prostate cancer. Hormone refractory prostate cancer, which occurs when hormone therapy fails to stop the growth of prostate cancer, is incurable and the main cause of death among prostate cancer patients. The research in Agoulnik's laboratory is supported by the National Cancer Institute and focused on the role of androgen receptor and its co-regulators in prostate cancer progression.

**Aron W. Berkman**, Associate Clinical Professor and Chief of Medical Oncology

Dr. Berkman graduated with high honors in zoology from the University of Maryland in 1971. He then attended the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine where he earned his M.D. and Ph.D. (Pharmacology) in 1977. He completed a residency in Internal Medicine at the Baltimore City Hospitals in 1980 and his fellowship in medical oncology at the Johns Hopkins Oncology Center in 1982.

In 1983, Dr. Berkman was appointed Chief of Medical Oncology at Harbor Hospital Center in Baltimore where he directed cancer services for twenty years. He also was the founding partner of Chesapeake Oncology/Hematology Associates, a large multispecialty group.

Dr. Berkman comes to FIU with an interest in developing a patient friendly multidisciplinary cancer program in an academic setting. The program will integrate multidisciplinary patient care, clinical and translational research and teaching at all levels. The research program will incorporate participation in cooperative group and industry trials as well as development of novel approaches to the treatment of cancer. Service to the community will be emphasized.

**Hironmoy Bhattacharjee**, Associate Professor  
Department of Cellular Biology & Pharmacology

Dr. Bhattacharjee received his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Jadavpur University, India, following which he was a postdoctoral research associate and later an assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Wayne State University School of Medicine. His major research interest is to elucidate the pathways of arsenic metabolism and transport in both prokaryotic and eukaryotic organisms. Dr. Bhattacharjee has identified novel proteins and their roles in arsenic transport and resistance. His other research interests include molecular enzymology, structure-function relationship, and generation of knockout mouse model.

He has over 30-publications that include research articles, reviews and book chapters. Two of his articles were highlighted by the Faculty of 1000 Biology as seminal papers in biological sciences. Dr. Bhattacharjee's research has been supported by a generous grant from State of Michigan Life Sciences Corridor, a pilot project grant from the Wayne State University NIEHS Center and has been coPI on several NIH grants.

**David R. Brown**, Assistant Professor and Chief of Family Medicine  
Department of Humanities, Health and Society

Dr. Brown received his MD from Boston University School of Medicine. He trained at the Salinas Family Practice Residency in California and has held faculty appointments at the University of Hawaii, the University of California at San Francisco and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine (UM). His research employs educational, qualitative, epidemiologic, participatory, and mixed methods to address a broad scope of topics relevant to family and social medicine.

Before joining FIU, Dr. Brown practiced and taught in the Department of Family Medicine & Community Health at UM and in the Jackson Health System. He is a board-certified Family Practitioner and practices a full-spectrum of family medicine for men, women, and children of all ages, including prevention and screening, family planning, acute care, and chronic disease care. As Chief of Family Medicine, Dr. Brown will oversee the four-year longitudinal Family Medicine curriculum, which is integrated with the curricula for "Medicine & Society" and NeighborhoodHELP™.

**Armando Camp**, Associate Professor

Coming soon

**Bernard Cantor**, Clinical Professor  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Dr. Cantor, FACOG, has joined the faculty of Florida International University College of Medicine bringing with him well recognized skills in gynecologic surgery, reproductive medicine, infertility and menopause. He is Board Certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Obstetrics and Gynecology as well as Subspecialty Board Certified in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility.

Dr. Cantor graduated from the University of Rochester. Dr. Cantor is a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and Past President of the Florida Society of Reproductive Endocrinologists. He is a member of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the Society for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, the Society of Reproductive Surgeons and the North American Menopause Society.

Dr. Cantor's work has been published in major journals as well as chapters in gynecologic and obstetrical publications. His awards and recognitions include: "South Florida Doctor of the Year"; "Florida's Best Gynecologist"; "Miami's Best Infertility Specialist"; and he has continuously been voted as one of "America's Top Doctors" by his colleagues and peers.

**Marta L. Cuellar**, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine;  
and Chief of Rheumatology

Dr. Cuellar, FACP, received her M.D. at the Javeriana University in Bogota, Colombia, in 1983. She is a board certified Internist and Rheumatologist who comes to FIU as the Chief of Rheumatology. She will be responsible for the development of a clinical rheumatology practice at Jackson North Medical Center and will be actively involved in the teaching activities of medical students at various levels, developing of the medical/rheumatology component of FIU-COM curriculum, and implementing clinical rotations in Internal Medicine. She will also collaborate in the development of an ACGME approved Internal Medicine program, and participate actively in the mentoring program for students in all phases of the curriculum.

Over the past few years, Dr. Cuellar's interest has been focused on the influence of lifestyle, family, and society upon the symptoms and manifestation of various rheumatic disorders. She underwent training sponsored by Harvard University in Mind Body Medicine and Positive Psychology, and Food as Medicine sponsored by Georgetown University and the University of Minnesota. She has implemented multidisciplinary groups to teach her patients skills in stress reduction techniques, exercise and nutrition as complements to traditional medication for the treatment/prevention of select rheumatic disorders. Dr. Cuellar will be involved in the development of trials to test some of these interventions in the treatment of rheumatic disorders.

**Luda Dolinsky**, Head Knowledge & Information Librarian

## Medical Library

Luda Dolinsky, MLIS, came to FIU from Lutheran Medical Center in New York where she was Director of the Health Sciences Library. Prior to that, she worked at the Medical Libraries of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, the Brooklyn Hospital Center, and the Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in New York. She was the first person awarded the internship at the Medical Library of Weill Cornell Medical College. She holds an M.L.I.S. from Pratt Institute in New York and a B.S. from Kharkov State Institute of Culture in Ukraine.

**Daniel Gelrud**, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine;  
and Course Director GI and Nutrition

Dr. Gelrud, MD, FACP, received his medical degree from the Central University of Venezuela (1992). Dr. Gelrud completed his residency in Internal Medicine (1997), chief residency (1998) and fellowship in Gastroenterology (2001) from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. Dr. Gelrud was an Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at Jacobi Medical Center of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine for five years. He is now in private practice in Miami as part of Gastrohealth.

**Myles C. Hodgson**, Instructor  
Department of Cellular Biology & Pharmacology

Dr. Hodgson joins the Wertheim College of Medicine from Baylor College of Medicine where he completed his postdoctoral training in the department of Molecular and Cellular Biology. He earned his PhD at Curtin University of Technology in Australia and received postdoctoral training at Harvard University and Baylor College of Medicine. A cancer and molecular biologist, he has worked on understanding the association of steroid receptors and co-regulators in female reproductive biology and the development and progression of prostate cancer. His current research focuses on the transition of prostate cancer to a hormone refractory state and on the involvement of the androgen receptor and cell signaling pathways in the development of this aggressive disease state.

**Elena Kaftanovskaya**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Human & Molecular Genetics

Dr. Kaftanovskaya came to FIU from Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. At Baylor she conducted studies to define the hormonal and genetic factors responsible for reproductive organ development. Dr. Kaftanovskaya received her Ph.D. from the Institute of Cytology and Genetics, Russian Academy of Science, thereafter remaining as Instructor in Laboratory Developmental Genetics. She was involved in mammalian chromosome gene mapping and the analysis of chromosomal behavior in mouse stem cells. From 2001 - 2008 she was a Research Scientist at the Laboratory of Freshwater Fish Stocks, Bioscience and Biotechnology Center of Nagoya University, Japan. At Nagoya she developed a novel method of nuclear transplantation of adult somatic cells and embryonic cloning in small Japanese Medaka fish.

**Bohyun Kim**, Digital Access Librarian  
Medical Library

Bohyun Kim holds a MLIS from Simmons College and a MA in philosophy from Harvard University. Her research interests are in library web services, user experience, instructional technologies, digital libraries, and e-resources management. Before joining FIU, she worked at various libraries at Harvard University in library information systems, instructional technologies, and e-resources management.

**Maria C. Melszen**, Head Learning Resource Librarian  
Medical Library

Maria Melssen, MLIS, joined the Herbert Wertheim Medical Library team in September 2008. She was previously the Reference and Education Librarian at the Raymon H. Mulford Library at the University of Toledo (former Medical University of Ohio), where she also served as Instructor for the Department of Physical Therapy. Her instructional interests include evidence based medicine, problem based learning, intellectual property, and web based research tools.

**Rita Mukhopadhyay**, Associate Professor  
Department of Molecular Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

Dr. Mukhopadhyay received her M.S. from the University of Calcutta, India and Ph.D. from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. She moved to the US in 1995 as a post-doctoral fellow at the Wayne State University, Detroit, followed by Assistant Professor-Research (non-tenure track), and Assistant Professor (tenure-track) at the School of Medicine. She has a five-year RO1 from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Earlier she was also awarded with a grant from the Leukemia Research Life through the Children's Research Center of Michigan.

Rita is an eminent molecular parasitologist who has been working on leishmaniasis since graduate school. She is the first one to identify the first drug transporter and the first drug activator in Leishmania. She has received several awards. As a graduate student she received the Gold Medal for publishing the best paper in molecular parasitology in India, and also the Young Scientist Gold Medal from the Indian Society for Parasitology for best research paper presented at the XIth National Congress of the Society at Udaipur, India. She received the Kenneth Warren Prize for the best oral presentation at the VIIth Annual Molecular Parasitology Meeting, Marine Biological Laboratories, Woods Hole, Massachusetts in 1996, followed by a best poster award at the third World Congress on Leishmaniasis, Palermo, Italy, April 10-15, 2005. As a faculty member she received the "Faculty Research Excellence Award" from the Wayne State University School of Medicine in 2007. In 2007, one of her papers was selected by the Faculty of 1000 Biology members, a much-coveted honor.

**Mark Multach**, Chair  
Department of Medicine

Dr. Multach, a lifelong resident of South Florida, has dedicated his career to Primary Care and Internal Medicine, both teaching and training of students, and residents as well as caring for patients. He has received recognition for his teaching and outstanding medical care in these areas. His areas of expertise include interpersonal skills, interviewing skills, perioperative evaluation and care as well as multiple aspects of out-patient care including health care maintenance, and the management of chronic illness.

After obtaining his medical degree at the University of Miami School of Medicine, Dr. Multach completed his residency in Internal Medicine with an emphasis on Primary Care Internal Medicine Training Program at Jackson Memorial Hospital/University of Miami Medical Center.

In 1992 Dr. Multach was recruited to develop and implement a new, two year introduction to clinical medicine course for the pre-clinical years at the School of Medicine. In 1994, Mark was appointed as the Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine and Vice Chairman for Clinical Programs for the Department of Medicine. The Department of Medicine, its training programs, and its clinical practice underwent dramatic growth during this time. Most recently, Mark has served in a senior medical leadership role in the Jackson Health System, including his former role as Vice President (Interim) for Quality and Patient Safety as well as the Associate Chief Medical Officer, a role he continues in at Jackson North Medical Center.

As the Chair of the Department of Medicine at the Florida International University College of Medicine, Dr. Multach is committed to developing novel approaches to the care of patients, including developing the Internists and Internal Medicine teachers of the future.

**Maria I. New**, Associate Dean for Clinical Research;  
and Adjunct Professor, Department of Human & Molecular Genetics

A member of the National Academy of Sciences and Professor of Pediatrics at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, Dr. New is one of the world's leading pediatric endocrinologists. She has conducted pioneering research in the area of congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH), a family of monogenic autosomal recessive disorders of steroidogenesis in which enzymatic defects result in impaired synthesis of cortisol by the adrenal cortex.

Dr. New earned her M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, which has awarded her its Distinguished Graduate Award, postgraduate work was taken at Cornell. She was chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Cornell from 1980 to 2003, and was Founding Director of the Children's Clinical Research Center at Cornell. She is recipient of numerous awards given by the American Endocrine Society and the British Endocrine Society. Dr. New has been inducted into the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Hall of Honor. Dr. New has edited or co-edited 12 medical textbooks, and written or co-written more than 500 research papers. She served as editor-in-chief of the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism. She has trained more than 100 fellows in pediatric endocrinology.

Dr. New will serve part-time as Associate Dean for Clinical Research. Her specific duties will be to facilitate clinical research reflecting her experience in clinical trials through pharmaceuticals forums and NIH. Her responsibilities extend to enhancing translational research and placing FIU on the pathway toward a clinical research center as she directed at Cornell. This position will expand, commensurate with progressive growth of the Wertheim College of Medicine.

**Barry P. Rosen**, Professor and Associate Dean for Basic Research  
and Graduate Studies

Barry P. Rosen joined the Wertheim College of Medicine from Wayne State University School of Medicine, where he is Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Chair of the Department. Dr. Rosen received his B.S. from Trinity College, Hartford, CT and his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut.

After an NIH postdoctoral fellow at Cornell University, he joined the faculty at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, where he rose to Professor. In 1987 he took the Chair at Wayne State, and under his stewardship the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology took the lead in structural biology at Wayne State University.

Professor Rosen is an internationally recognized expert in the field of heavy metal transport and detoxification, specializing in the molecular mechanisms of arsenic detoxification. He has published more than 300 papers, reviews and books and is the holder of two grants from the National Institute of Health. He is recipient of numerous awards, including Basil O'Connor Award from the March of Dimes, Maryland Distinguished Young Scientist Award, Josiah Macy, Jr. Faculty Scholar Award, Gershenson Distinguished Faculty Fellow Award (WSU), Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award (WSU), Lawrence Weiner Award (WSU).

He has been on many national and international panels at NIH, NSF, and American Heart Association, and on multiple editorial boards. Dr. Rosen was recently selected to be a Distinguished University Professor, the highest honor awarded to a Wayne State University faculty member. He was President of the Wayne State University Academy of Scholars and President of the American Association of Medical and Graduate Departments of Biochemistry until his move to FIU.

**Jie Qin**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Cellular Biology & Pharmacology

Dr. Qin received his BS in Ecology from the University of Inner Mongolia, and completed his PhD in Biochemical Engineering from Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China. In 2001, he joined University of Georgia as a postdoc for the heavy detoxification research. In 2004, he went to Wayne State University as a research associate.

In 2009, he joined Florida International University as an Assistant Professor. His main interest is heavy detoxification including mercury and arsenic. His goals are to chemically, genetically and physiologically understand how microorganisms to detoxify arsenic, and find a way make arsenic less hazardous. Currently, Dr. Qin is focusing his research on the metabolism and potential application of arsenic methylation in bioremediation.

**Nafis Rahman**, Professor  
Department of Cellular Biology & Pharmacology

Dr. Rahman comes from the Department of Physiology, Institute of Biomedicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Turku, Turku, Finland. He received his MD in 1991 from Lodz University Medical School, Lodz, Poland, and his PhD in Medical Sciences & Specialization in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Lodz University Medical School, Lodz, Poland (with distinction and laudatur). He then completed his postdoctoral training in the Department of Physiology, Institute of Biomedicine, University of Turku, Turku, Finland under the supervision of Prof. Ilpo Huhtaniemi.

He has over 30 publications in very good impact factor peer reviewed medical journals, such as: Journal of Clinical Investigation, Endocrine-related Cancer, Neoplasia, Endocrinology, Endocrinology, Journal of Biological Chemistry, Molecular Endocrinology, Biology of Reproduction, Breast Cancer Research and Treatment, Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology, to name a few. He referees for several journals such as Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology, Reproductive Biology, Endocrinology, Neuroendocrinology, and Human Molecular Reproduction. He also served as editor of a special issue of Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology in 2006.

**Arnold F. Schild**, Professor

Coming soon

**Helen Tempest**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Human & Molecular Genetics

Dr. Tempest took her undergraduate work at Brunel University (London), earning her BSc in Applied Biology. During this time she established the research laboratory of Professor Darren Griffin. Her PhD thesis in that laboratory was "The association between sperm aneuploidy and male infertility: screening, aetiology and possible routes to alternative therapy".

Dr. Tempest's expertise focuses on the chromosomal aspects of infertility and toxicant in humans utilizing new cytogenetic and molecular technologies. Remaining at Brunel University after her PhD, she first developed an infertility screening kit for rapid identification of porcine chromosomal rearrangements. Following this, she moved to the University of Kent (Canterbury) to develop avian chromosome paints and conduct comparative mapping projects. There she became interested in combining nano-technology with conventional cytogenetics, using quantum dots as fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH) probes. In 2006, she joined the laboratory of Professor Renée Martin, at the University of Calgary. At Calgary, Dr. Tempest investigated the effect of chemotherapy on sperm aneuploidy, intra- and inter-individual variations in sperm aneuploidy and chromosome pairing and recombination during meiosis. During 2008-2009 she devoted efforts to preimplantation genetic diagnosis on single cells (blastomeres), working at the London Bridge Centre for Infertility, Genetics and Gynaecology (London, UK) with Dr. Alan Handyside, a pioneer who achieved the world's first human PGD diagnosis.

At FIU Dr. Tempest will establish a reference reproductive genetics "gold standard" laboratory that will be a pivotal component of joint efforts between the College of Medicine and College of Engineering to develop novel, robust, and sensitive methods for monitoring exposure to chemical toxins.

## College of Nursing and Health Sciences

### **Diane Loffredo**, Faculty Administrator Nursing

Diane Loffredo earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Florida, her Certificate in Human Resource Administration at Florida International University, and her Master of Science in Nursing at Barry University. From 1997-2009, she held management positions including Director of the Magnet Program at the University of Miami/Sylvester; Director of Nursing Education at Mercy Hospital; Department Chairperson, Continuing and Community Education, Medical Center Campus, at Miami-Dade Community College; and Director of Education at Coral Gables Hospital. Ms. Loffredo is certified by the Florida Board of Nursing, the American Nurses Credentialing Center, and the American Heart Association. She is a member of the South Florida Organization of Nurse Executives (SFONE), the National Nursing Staff Development Organization (NNSDO), the South Florida Nursing Shortage Consortium, and the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN).

### **Randall Roark**, Clinical Assistant Professor Nursing

Professor Roark has been an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Samuel Merritt College, a Nurse Practitioner and a Clinical Nurse at Kaiser San Francisco Medical Center, and a Clinical Nurse at San Francisco Medical Center at the University of California. He was an Instructor at the Florida College of Natural Health for four years. Professor Roark graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with an M.A. in Exercise Physiology, and went on to earn a J.D. from Yeshiva University, an M.P.H. from Florida International University, and an M.S. (Adult Nurse Practitioner) from the University of California-San Francisco. He is in the process of completing his doctorate at the University of Hawaii. A licensed RN in the state of California, his research interests and background are in the areas of public and community health.

## School of Journalism and Mass Communication

### **David Park**, Assistant Professor Department of Advertising & Public Relations

Dr. Park joins FIU after serving as Assistant Professor and Public Relations Sequence Head in the Department of Communications at Xavier University for five years. His research interests lie in the areas of political economy of mass communication, media and democracy, international communication, human rights and South America, and new media technologies within the music industry. He obtained his B.A. from University of Minnesota-Minneapolis, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Parks has been an Honorary Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Sabbatical Scholar, a Fulbright Scholar, a Tinker-Nave Scholar, and a Rotary Scholar. His book, *Conglomerate Rock: The Music Industry's Quest to Divide Music and Conquer Wallets*, was published in 2007.

## Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work

### **Ahmed Albatineh**, Assistant Professor Department of Biostatistics



Dr. Albatineh holds a B.S. in Mathematics from Yarmouk University in Jordan; and an M.S. in Operations Research, an M.S. in Applied Statistics, and a Ph.D. in Statistics from Western Michigan University (WMU). After working for six years as a Doctoral Associate at WMU, he was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics at Nova Southeastern University (NSU). Dr. Albatineh was awarded several grants from the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences at NSU and a grant from the American Statistical Association. His research interests include biostatistics, cluster analysis and identification, categorical and multivariate data analysis, gene expression, and microarray data analysis. He has published many scholarly articles, and is a member of the American Statistical Association (ASA) and the Classification Society of North America (CSNA).

**Zhongxue Chen**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Biostatistics

Dr. Chen obtained his B.S. in Mathematics at Changchun Normal University and his M.S. in Applied Mathematics at Sichuan University in China. He subsequently attended the University of South Florida, where he earned an M.A. in Mathematical Statistics, and went on to complete a Ph.D. in Statistics at Southern Methodist University. Dr. Chen was awarded the Graduate Student Research Award and the Graduate Student Scholarship at South Methodist University, and the R. L. Anderson Student Paper Award at the Summer Research Conference in Statistics (SRCOS) in Kerrville, Texas. After completing his studies, he was employed as a Senior Biostatistician at the Joseph Stokes Jr. Research Institute at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He is a member of the American Statistical Association (ASA) and the International Biometric Society.

**Melissa Howard**, Clinical Assistant Professor  
Department of Health Promotion & Disease Prevention

Dr. Howard attended Wellesley College, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts, and went on to complete a Master of Public Health and a Doctor of Philosophy in Health Behavior at the University of Florida. She joins the FIU faculty after a three-year stint as an Assistant Professor of Health Education at the University of West Florida, where she was previously an Adjunct Lecturer. Dr. Howard's research and professional interests encompass adolescent health, prescription drug abuse prevention, health communication, and social marketing. She is certified as a Health Education Specialist by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc., as an e-Studio Online Instructor by the University of West Florida, and as a Smoking Cessation Facilitator by the American Lung Association. She also obtained a Graduate Certificate of Health Communication from the University of Florida.

**Hafiz Khan**, Associate Professor  
Department of Biostatistics

Dr. Khan joins FIU after a three-year stint as an Assistant Professor in Statistics at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Prior to that, he was a Special Lecturer in Applied Statistics at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Dr. Khan completed an M.S. in Statistics at Western Michigan University and a Ph.D. in that subject at the University of Western Ontario. He was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Bioinformatics at London Regional Genomics Centre & Blackburn Cardiovascular Genetics Laboratory at the Roberts Research Institute in Ontario, Canada. His research interests include biostatistical applications in biomedical and public health data sets, bioinformatics and computational biology, meta-analysis, microarray analysis in human genetics, healthcare data analysis, and modeling of biomedical data from disparate modalities (phenomics).

**Nicole Ruggiano**, Assistant Professor  
School of Social Work

Dr. Ruggiano graduated from the University of Delaware with a B.A. in Psychology, and went on to complete her M.S.W. at Temple University and her Ph.D. in Urban Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Delaware. She has been an

Instructor in the Leadership Program at the University of Delaware and Adjunct Faculty at the Department of Social Work at Delaware State University. She worked in a variety of roles at the University of Delaware including Community Development Coach at the Delaware Blueprint Communities Initiative, Policy and Data Analyst at the Governor's Consortium on Hispanic Affairs, and Researcher at the National Center on Elder Abuse. Dr. Ruggiano's research interests include innovation in human services, social policy analysis and program evaluation, economic and social inequality and opportunity, and aging and race issues in public policy.

**Changwon Yoo**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Biostatistics

Dr. Yoo joins FIU after serving as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Montana. He has been employed as a Senior Research Associate at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, a Research Fellow at the University of Pittsburgh Center for Biomedical Informatics, a Graduate Research Associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Lecturer at Ssangyong Information and Communications Corporation in Seoul, Korea, where he previously was employed as a Software Engineer. Dr. Yoo earned his B.S. in Mathematics at KyungHee University in Korea, his M.S. in Computer Science at Harvard University, and his Ph.D. in Biomedical Informatics at the University of Pittsburgh. He has received an NSF EPSCoR and NIH COBRE grant, an NSF IGERT grant, and an NIH Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (CORE) grant.

## University Libraries

**Mary Radnor**, Library Instructor  
University Libraries

Ms. Radnor was the Interlibrary Services Lending Team Leader at Kansas State University Libraries for two years, where she previously served as an Interlibrary Services Lending Specialist and an Interlibrary Services Student Specialist. Her areas of expertise include library reference services and scholarly database searches. Ms. Radnor holds a B.S. in Mathematics from Kansas State University and an M.L.S. from Emporia State University. She has served in many leadership roles including Chair and Chair-Elect of the Kansas State Libraries Classified Council; Classified Staff Representative on the Kansas State Libraries Leadership Council; and Member of the Dean of Libraries Five-Year Review Advisory Committee. She is a member of the American Library Association; the Kansas Library Association; and the Emporia State University Student Chapter of the American Library Association.

**Alia Spencer**, Health Sciences Librarian  
University Libraries

Ms. Spencer comes to FIU from Florida Atlantic University (FAU), where she was a Librarian. Prior to her employment at FAU, she held positions including Librarian at the Eissey Campus Library at Palm Beach Community College Campus; Library Assistant at Medaille College Library; and Librarian with Literacy Volunteers of Buffalo & Erie County, Inc., in New York. She completed her B.S. in Biological Sciences at the University of Cincinnati and her M.L.S. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Ms. Spencer has been a member of the Library Advisory Board, The Collection Development Task Force, and the Faculty Assembly (FAU libraries), all at FAU. She was also active in organizations including the Medical Library Association (MLA), the Urban Libraries Association (ULC), and the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS).