

Caite Wolak, MPH

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director of Undergraduate Studies in Public Health and Instructor 2016 to present
Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Temple University Philadelphia, PA

- Provide management and administrative oversight of the Bachelor of Science program in Public Health, the accelerated 4+1 Bachelor of Science in Public Health to Master of Public Health program, a minor in Public Health and a Nutrition minor.
- Initiate and oversee the development and implementation of a high quality curriculum that exceeds accreditation standards and successfully prepares students for post-graduation opportunities.
- Identify, advocate for, and secure resources for students experiencing challenges throughout their academic program including additional tutoring services, emergency funding, and other supportive services.
- Supervise two undergraduate academic advisors.
- Teach four to six undergraduate courses per year.
- Assist with recruitment, marketing, and student retention initiatives for major and minors.
- Coordinate course offerings and teaching assignments with multiple Department Chairs.

Fieldwork Coordinator and Instructor 2011-2016
Department of Public Health, Temple University Philadelphia, PA

- Facilitated placement for over 150 undergraduate Public Health and 30 MPH students' fieldwork placements per year.
- Developed partnerships and maintained relationships with over 100 public health organizations for fieldwork placement and practice-based learning experiences.
- Coordinated professional development events each semester for undergraduate and graduate students such as internship and career panels as well as networking events.
- Taught five to six undergraduate and master level courses annually.

Adjunct Professor 2010-2011
Department of Public Health, Temple University Philadelphia, PA

- Taught undergraduate courses including Internship, Professional Seminar, and AIDS and Society.

Project Assistant 2010-2011
Center for Preparedness Research, Education and Practice, Temple University Philadelphia, PA

- Coordinated statewide meetings with an advisory group that included service providers and community organizations that serve special populations and facilitated the development of a strategic plan.
- Created a chapter regarding special medical needs shelters to be published in the PA Department of Health Special Populations Guide.
- Surveyed alternate care sites in the five South Eastern PA counties that may be used as special medical needs shelters during a disaster.

Group Home Counselor 2007-2010
Elwyn New Jersey Vineland, NJ

- Assisted, taught, and supported six individuals with developmental disabilities in independent management of personal health care, hygiene, and social interaction.

- Developed individual habilitation plans in conjunction with case managers and taught skills to maximize independence.

PUBLICATIONS

Bass, S. B., Gordon, T. F., Maurer, L., Greener, J., Mora, G., Ruggieri, D., **Wolak, C.**, & Parvanta, C. (2016). How do low-literacy populations perceive “dirty bombs”? Implications for preparedness messages. *Health security*, 14(5), 331-344.

Bass, S. B., **Wolak, C.**, Greener, J., Tedaldi, E., Nanavati, A., Ruppert, K., & Gordon, T. F. (2016). Using perceptual mapping methods to understand gender differences in perceived barriers and benefits of clinical research participation in urban minority HIV+ patients. *AIDS care*, 28(4), 528-536.

Ruzek, S. B., Bass, S. B., Greener, J., **Wolak, C.**, & Gordon, T. F. (2016). Randomized trial of a computerized touch screen decision aid to increase acceptance of colonoscopy screening in an African American population with limited literacy. *Health communication*, 31(10), 1291-1300

Bass, S.B, Greener, J.R., Ruggieri, D., Parvanta, C., Mora, G., **Wolak, C.**, Normile, R., and Gordon, TF. (2015). Attitudes and Perceptions of Urban African Americans of a “Dirty Bomb” Radiological Terror Event: Results of a Qualitative Study and Implications for Effective Risk Communication. *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*, 9, pp 9-18. doi:10.1017/dmp.2014.158.

Gordon, TF, Bass, SB, Ruzek, SB, **Wolak, C***, Rovito, MJ*, Ruggieri, D*, Ward, S, Parajape, A. Developing a typology of African Americans with limited literacy based on health maintenance orientation: Implications for colorectal cancer screening strategies. *Journal of Health Communication*. 2014; 19(11):1259-77. doi:10.1080/10810730.2013.872725

Bass, SB, Gordon, TF, Ruzek, SB, **Wolak, C***, Ruggieri, D*, Mora, G*, Rovito, MJ, Britto, J, Parameswaran, L, Abedin, Z, Ward, S, Paranjape, A, Lin, Meyer, B, Pitts, K*. Developing a Computer Touch-screen Interactive Colorectal Screening Decision Aid for a Low-Literacy African American Population: Lessons Learned. *Health Promotion Practice*, 2013. 14(4):589-98. Doi: 10.1177/1524839912463392.

Ruggieri, DG*, Bass, SB, Rovito, MJ, Ward, S, Gordon, TF, Paranjape, A, Lin, , Meyer, B, Parameswaran, L, Wolak, C*, Britto, J, Ruzek, SB. Perceived colonoscopy barriers and facilitators among urban African American patients and their medical residents. *Journal of Health Communication*, 2013; 18(4):372-90. DOI:10.1080/10810730.2012.727961

Wolak, C*, Bass, SB, Tedaldi, E, VanDenburg, M, Rohrer, C*. Minority HIV Patients’ Perceptions of Barriers and Facilitators to Participation in Clinical Research. *Current HIV Research*, 2012; 10(4): 348-55.

Bass, SB, Gordon, TF, Ruzek, SB, **Wolak, C***, Ward, S, Paranjape, A, Lin, K, Meyer, B, Ruggieri, D*. Perceptions of colorectal cancer screening in urban African American clinic patients: Differences by gender and screening status. *Journal of Cancer Education*. 2011; 26(1): 121-8. DOI: 10.1007/s13187-010-0123-9

PRESENTATIONS

Wolak, C., Ibrahim, J., & Jones, N. (2020, April). *What is Public Health? Effective recruitment strategies that aim to increase awareness and exposure to the field across the admissions continuum*. Presented at the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health Undergraduate Summit, Arlington, VA.

Wolak, C., Frankel, A. Lepore, S., Collins, B., Willsey, D., & Meyers, S. (2020, March). *Valuing an Inclusive Environment: Facilitating Faculty and Staff Training to Promote Inclusiveness in Teaching, Research, and Service*. Presented at the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health Undergraduate Summit, Arlington, VA.

Wolak, C. & Scarpulla, M. (2019, March). *Using Collaborative Learning Techniques to Cultivate Professional Development in Undergraduate Public Health Students*. Presented at the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health Undergraduate Summit, Arlington, VA.

Washington, S., **Wolak, C.**, Scarpulla, M., Anderson, S., and Tripicchio, G. (2019, March). *Developing Public Health Leaders: A Commitment to Diversity, Social Justice, and Health Equity*. Presented at the, Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health Undergraduate Summit, Arlington, VA.

Anderson, S., Washington, S., **Wolak, C.**, Scarpulla, M., and Tripicchio, G. (2019, March). *The Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee: Broadening Students' Exposure to Topics Related to Social Justice and Health*. Poster presented at the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health Annual Conference, Arlington, VA.

Wolak, C. Patterson, F., Frankel, A., Boyer, J., Ibrahim, J. (2014, November). *Creating an evidenced based MPH fieldwork model: From research and implementation through evaluation and dissemination*. Presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Wolak C., Bass SB., Tedaldi E., Vandenberg-Wolf M., Rohrer C. (2011, November). *Minority HIV patients' perceptions of barriers and facilitators to participation in clinical research*. Poster presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Conference, Washington DC.

Wolak C. Gordon, TF., Bass, SB., Ruzek, SB. (2009, October). *Assessing literacy in a low-income, African American clinic population to facilitate improving health education interventions*. Poster presented at the Health Literacy Annual Research Conference, Washington DC.

Wolak C. Gordon, TF., Bass, SB., Ruzek, SB. (2009, October). *Assessing literacy in a low-income, African American clinic population to facilitate improving health education interventions*. Presented at the Pennsylvania Public Health Association Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate Courses

Professional Seminar in Public Health - 2010 to present

Internship II – 2011 to present

Internship I - 2011 to Fall 2019

AIDS and Society – Summer 2012

Community Based Program Planning I – Fall 2015, Fall 2019

Community Based Program Planning II – Spring 2016

Introduction to Public Health: How We Live, Work and Play – 2015-2016

Contemporary Health Issues – Summer 2015

Graduate Courses

MPH Fieldwork I – 2012-2014

MPH Fieldwork II – 2012-2014

UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Member, College of Public Health Transfer Student Committee	2019-Present
Youth Career Mentor, Pathstone Corporation	2018-Present
Chair, Undergraduate Committee, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences	2016-Present
Member, Undergraduate Council, College of Public Health	2016-Present
Member, Awards Committee, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences	2017-Present
Member, Diversity, Inclusivity, and Belonging in Social and Behavioral Sciences	2016-2019
External Reviewer, University of Massachusetts Lowell Department of Public Health	2019
Curriculum Chair and Member, Boro of Clayton Board of Education	2016-2019
External Reviewer, Drexel University School of Public Health - Undergraduate program alignment	2018
Member, Fieldwork Taskforce, College of Public Health	2013-2018
Superintendent Search Committee Chair, Boro of Clayton Board of Education	Summer 2016

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Public Health Association

Association for Schools and Programs of Public Health, Undergraduate Network for Public Health and Global Health Education

Delta Omega, Public Health Honorary Society

HONORS AND AWARDS

2018 - Service Award, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

2016– Undergraduate Service Award, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

2014 – Service Award, Department of Public Health

EDUCATION

Master of Public Health in Social and Behavioral Sciences

College of Health Professions and Social Work, Temple University

2008-2010
Philadelphia, PA

Bachelor of Science in Public Health

College of Health Professions and Social Work, Temple University

2004-2008
Philadelphia, PA