OMB No. 0925-0001 and 0925-0002 (Rev. 12/2020 Approved Through 02/28/2023)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.  
Follow this format for each person. **DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES.**

NAME: Kepka, Deanna

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): deannakepka

POSITION TITLE: Associate Professor, College of Nursing

EDUCATION/TRAINING (Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)

| INSTITUTION AND LOCATION | DEGREE  (if applicable) | Completion Date  MM/YYYY | FIELD OF STUDY |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Northwestern University, Evanston, IL | BA | 06/1997 | Psychology & Philosophy |
| Illinois State University, Normal, IL | MA | 12/2000 | Political Science |
| University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC | MPH | 05/2006 | Health Behavior and Health Education |
| University of Washington, Seattle, WA | PhD | 06/2010 | Health Services, Maternal & Child Health |
| National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD | Post-Doc. Fellowship | 08/2012 | Cancer Prevention & Control |

**A. Personal Statement  
I am a tenured Associate Professor in the College of Nursing and an Investigator at the Huntsman Cancer Institute with expertise in community-level cancer prevention and control research among underserved communities. Specifically, I am strongly driven to work in cancer prevention and control among vulnerable populations with a focus on rural and other vulnerable populations. As a Pre-Doctoral Biobehavioral Cancer Prevention and Control Fellow at the University of Washington and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, I developed a rural-focused community-based HPV vaccination intervention that included fotonovela educational pamphlets and a radionovela. These educational tools improved knowledge and sparked interest in the HPV vaccine among rural Latino parents. I then acquired excellent training in epidemiological and behavioral research methods as a National Cancer Institute Cancer Prevention Post-Doctoral Fellow where I received the Cancer Prevention Fellowship Merit Award. Over the past decade, my work has continued to be recognized with receipt of 20 awards for excellence at the international, national, local levels.**

**Since my arrival at the University of Utah and the Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI), I have established a successful independent research program in Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination, HPV-related cancers, women’s health, cancer prevention education, cancer screening targeting vulnerable patient populations, rural cancer prevention and control, and cancer-related health disparities. I am the Director of the Intermountain West HPV Vaccination Coalition at Huntsman Cancer Institute and the inaugural Director of Global and International Health in the College of Nursing at the University of Utah. I am a nationally recognized leader in HPV vaccination and HPV-cancer prevention research. I hosted the NCI Cancer Center HPV Vaccination Meeting at Huntsman Cancer Institute in June 2018. I represented NCI Designated Cancer Centers on the HPV Vaccination Roundtable from 2015-2019. I have more than 15 years of experience working with at-risk communities through collaborative community partnerships that promote positive health behaviors in Jamaica, Chicago, North Carolina, Washington, and Utah and more than 10 years of experience working with Hispanic communities in Mexico, Peru, Chicago, North Carolina, Washington, and Utah.**

I am uniquely positioned with expertise in HPV vaccination and rural disparities to serve as the Huntsman Cancer Institute Site Leader for this proposal, ***4Corners4Health: A Social Media Cancer Prevention Program for Rural Young Adults***.

**Most notable of my scientific contributions include the following publications:**

1. **Kepka D, Spigarelli MG, Warner EL, Yoneoka Y, McConnell N, Balch A. Statewide analysis of missed opportunities for human papillomavirus vaccination using vaccine registry data. Papillomavirus Research. 2016; 2:128-132. PMID: 27540595. PMCID: PMC4985178**
2. **Kepka D, Breen N, King J, Benard V, Saraiya M. Overuse of Papanicolaou testing among older women and among women without a cervix. JAMA Internal Medicine; Published online Nov 25, 2013. PMID: 24276745. PMCID: PMC4386596.**
3. **Martin S, Warner EL, Kirchhoff AC, Mooney R, Martel L, Kepka D. An electronic medical record alert intervention to improve HPV vaccination among eligible male college students at a university student health center. J Community Health. Feb 16 2018. PMID: 29453619.**
4. **Kepka D**, Christini K, McGough E, et al. Successful Multi-Level HPV Vaccination Intervention at a Rural Healthcare Center in the Era of COVID-19. *Front Digit Health.* 2021;3:719138. PMCID: PMC8521914.

**Ongoing and recently completed projects that I would like to highlight include:**

**74167**

**Wetter (PI)**

**01/01/2020 – 12/31/2022**

**Geographic Disparities in HPV Vaccination Rates for Adolescents Living in Rural States**

Goal: The American Cancer Society North Region and the Huntsman Cancer Institute are partnering to increase adolescent HPV vaccination rates in five Mountain West states. Leadership from the five state health agencies and professional associations will address barriers, create action plans, and disseminate strategies to improve outcomes.

Role: Co-I

**212700921**

**Kepka (PI)**

**12/01/2020 – 06/30/2021**

**HPV Vaccination Boot Camp for School Nurses in Utah**

Goal: To share research on the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine and social norms about vaccination.

Role: PI

**2021\_002**

**Kepka/Davis (Co-PIs)**

**02/01/2021 – 06/30/2022**

**Intermountain Healthcare, Huntsman Cancer Institute, and University of Utah Partnership to Improve HPV Vaccination in Utah’s Lowest Performing Health Districts for HPV Vaccination**

Goal: To improve HPV vaccination rates Utah’s lowest performing health districts.

Role: Co-PI

**3P30CA042014-29S8**

**Ulrich/Kepka/Hashibe (Co-PIs)**

**05/01/2018 – 4/30/2021**

**Intermountain West Rural Cancer Control Research Capacity**

Goal: The supplement aims to establish a rural Mountain West cancer prevention and control advisory board (R-CAB), to strengthen HCI’s partnerships with rural primary care clinics to adapt and expand evidence based HPV vaccination intervention strategies, and to develop a sustainability plan to address barriers to implementation of evidence based HPV vaccination strategies experienced by rural primary care clinics.

Role: Co-Project Lead

**1R03CA216174-01A1**

**Kepka/Kirchhoff (Co-PIs)**

**01/01/2018 –12/31/2020**

**Statewide Assessment of HPV Vaccination among Childhood Cancer Survivors**

Goal: This study assessed HPV vaccination receipt among cancer survivors following completion of cancer therapy with a unique epidemiological database and vaccine registry data.

Role: Co-PI

**B. Positions, Scientific Appointments, and Honors  
Positions and Employment**

**2019- Associate Professor, University of Utah, College of Nursing, Salt Lake City, UT**

**2018- Director of Global and International Health, Univ. of UT, College of Nursing, Salt Lake City, UT**

**2012-2019 Assistant Professor, University of Utah, College of Nursing, Salt Lake City, UT**

2014- Director, Intermountain West HPV Vaccination Coalition, Salt Lake City, UT

**2012- Member, Cancer Control & Population Sciences, Huntsman Cancer Inst., Salt Lake City, UT**

**2010-2012 Cancer Prevention Fellow, Health Services & Economics Branch, Applied Research Program, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD**

**2008-2010 Biobehavioral Cancer Prevention and Control Trainee, Department of Health Services, University of Washington and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA**

**2008 Graduate Research Assistant, Organizational Research Services, Seattle, WA**

**2007-2009 Graduate Research Assistant, Amauta Peru Practicum Program, University of Washington and Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru**

**2007 Teaching Assistant, Department of Biobehavioral Nursing and Health Systems, University of Washington School of Nursing**

**Other Experience and Professional Memberships**

2020- Associate Editor, BMC Public Health

2017- Voting Member, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Advisory Committee, Utah Department of Health, Salt Lake City, UT

2015-2018 Leader, Univ. of UT College of Nursing, Women’s Health Synergy Group, Salt Lake City, UT

2014-2016 National HPV Vaccination Roundtable, Provider Education and Training Working Group, Team Leader of HPV Oropharyngeal Cancer Education Video Project & Member, State Based Coalitions Working Group, Chair-elect of Coalitions and State Roundtables Working Group

2014-2016 National HPV Vaccination Roundtable, Provider Education and Training Working Group, Team Leader of HPV Oropharyngeal Cancer Education Video Project & Member, State Based Coalitions Working Group, Chair-elect of Coalitions and State Roundtables Working Group

2013-2015 Vice President’s Clinical and Translational Research Scholars Program, University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, UT

2012-2013 Pediatric Clinical and Translational (PCAT) Research Scholar, Department of Pediatrics, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

2012- Utah Women’s Health Coalition (Secretary as of 2014), Salt Lake City, UT

**2005-2006 University of North Carolina Center for AIDS Research (CFAR)**

**Honors**

2020 Selected figure for Zion’s Bank Utah Women’s Mural Project for impact on women in Utah

2019 YWCA of Utah’s Outstanding Achievement Award for Women in Medicine & Health

2018 American Cancer Society North Region HPV Vaccination Champion Award

2018 First Place Poster Award, Extreme Affordability Conference, Kpong, Ghana, West Africa

2018 Second Place, Oncology Award for Excellence in Skin and Muscle Health. Skin and Muscle.

2017 Research Nominee, Leadership in Inclusive Excellence Award, Office of the Associate Vice President for Health Equity and Inclusion, University of Utah,

2017 Excellence in Research and Scholarship Award, University of Utah College of Nursing

2017 Geographic Management Program for Cancer Health Disparities Region 6, Research Scholar Rising Star Award

2016 NIH Loan Repayment Program Renewal Award for Health Disparities Research

2015, 16, 18 Geographic Management Program for Cancer Health Disparities Travel Award Recipient

2014 NIH Loan Repayment Program Award for Health Disparities Research

2012, 13, 15 American Society of Preventive Oncology Top Abstract

2012 National Cancer Institute Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program Merit Award

2011 Society of Behavioral Medicine Citation Award

2009 Academy Health Disparities Interest Group Emerging Scholar Award

2008-2010 NCI Biobehavioral Cancer Prevention and Control Training Program Traineeship recipient

2008-2009 APHA Maternal and Child Health Fellow

2007 Amauta Peru Practicum Program Scholarship recipient, University of Washington

2006-2008 Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Traineeship recipient

2000 Scholarship recipient, XIII International AIDS Conference, Durban, South Africa

2000 Illinois State University Distinguished Master’s Thesis, Normal, IL

1997 Graduated with Honors in Philosophy, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

**C. Contributions to Science**1. During past decades, advances in cancer screening and prevention have become a national priority. Prevention and screening research is vital to the reducing the morbidity and mortality associated with cancer. My research in this key area is highlighted by the below publications. Papanicolau testing practices among healthcare providers and patients can provide important background information on priority groups that should be targeted to for HPV vaccination. My role in these studies was to generate research questions, conduct data analyses, and write manuscripts.

1. **Kepka D**, Breen N, King J, Benard V, Saraiya M. Overuse of Papanicolaou testing among older women and among women without a cervix. JAMA Internal Medicine; Published online Nov 25, 2013. PMID: 24276745. PMCID: PMC4386596.
2. **Kepka D**, Smith AA, Zeruto C, Yabroff KR. Is provider type associated with cancer screening and prevention? Advanced practice registered nurses, physician assistants, and physicians. March 31 2014 BMC Cancer. PMID: 24685149. PMCID: PMC4230633.
3. **Kepka D**, Breen N, King JB, Meissner HI, Roland KB, Benard VB, Saraiya M. Demographic factors associated with overuse of Pap testing. American Journal of Preventive Medicine. Aug 27 2014. PMID: 25175763.
4. Lai D, Bodson J, Warner EL, Ayres S, Mooney R, **Kepka D**. Younger age and health beliefs associated with being overdue for Pap testing among Utah Latinas who were non-adherent to cancer screening guidelines. Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health. Mar 1 2017. PMID: 28251421.

2. Community-based participatory research with underserved and hard to reach populations is essential for reducing disparities in cancer prevention and control. Research among vulnerable populations for the prevention and control of cancer is a key theme of my research, as indicated by the below publications. My role in these studies was to generate research questions, conduct data analyses, and write manuscripts.

1. **Kepka D**, Ayala GX, Cherrington AL. Do immigrant Latinos link self-rated health with BMI and health behaviors? American Journal of Health Behavior, 2007; 31(5): 535-544. PMID: 17555384.
2. Breslau, E, Weiss, E, Williams, A, Burness, A, **Kepka, D**. The implementation road: engaging community partnerships in evidence-based cancer control interventions. Health Promotion Practice. April 3 2014. PMID: 24700166.
3. Warner EL, Fowler B, Martel L, **Kepka D**. Improving HPV vaccination through a diverse multi-state Coalition. Journal of Community Health*.* 2017;42(5):911-920. PMID: 28393294.
4. Lai D, Bodson J, Davis FA, Lee D, Tavake-Pasi F, Napia E…**Kepka D**. Diverse families' experiences with HPV vaccine information sources: a community-based participatory approach. Journal of Community Health. Apr 2017. PMID: 27734247. PMCID: PMC5337438.

3. The HPV vaccine is recommended for adolescents at ages 11-12 years. For most eligible adolescents, parents or caregivers bear the greatest decision-making power in the choice to have their adolescent receive HPV vaccinations. These publications illustrate the importance of understanding parents’ and caregivers’ awareness, perceptions, and knowledge of the HPV vaccine in guiding interventions that are designed to promote HPV vaccine uptake. Understanding the informational needs of parents and caregivers representing racial and/or ethnic minority populations is particularly important for designing culturally appropriate intervention materials. This body of work has made important contributions to describing current awareness, perceptions, and knowledge of the HPV vaccine among parents and caregivers. My role in these studies was to generate research questions, conduct data analyses, and write manuscripts.

1. **Kepka D**, Rodriguez HP, Coronado G, Thompson B. Acculturation and HPV infection among Latinas in the United States. Preventive Medicine, 2010; 51: 182-184. PMCID: PMC2919294.
2. **Kepka D**, Warner EL, Kinney AY, Spigarelli MG, Mooney K. Low human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine knowledge among Latino parents in Utah. Journal of Immigrant and Minorit Health*.* Mar 9 2014. PMID:24609357.
3. Fowler B, Bodson J, Warer EL, Dyer J, **Kepka D**. Poor HPV Vaccine-related awareness and knowledge among Utah Latinas overdue for recommended cancer screenings. J Community Health. 2016; 41(4):825-37. PMID: 26860277.
4. **Kepka D**, Christini K, McGough E, et al. Successful Multi-Level HPV Vaccination Intervention at a Rural Healthcare Center in the Era of COVID-19. *Front Digit Health.* 2021;3:719138. PMID: PMC8521914.

4. Analyses of existing national datasets is a cost-effective and efficient way to understand population-level HPV vaccination practices among healthcare providers, vaccine initiation and awareness among eligible patient populations, and barriers to HPV vaccination. Using multiple national datasets, such as the National Health Interview Survey, the National Immunization Survey-Teen, and the Utah Statewide Immunization Information System, I have led multiple publications that define the current state of HPV vaccination in the United States. My role in these projects includes the development of research questions, study design, leading data analyses, and writing and editing manuscripts.

1. **Kepka D**, Ding Q, Warner EL, Spigarelli MG, Mooney K. High school females and those with other vaccinations most likely to complete the Human Papillomavirus vaccine. Preventive Medicine Reports. 2015. PMID: 26844053. PMCID: PMC4721356. PMID: 30703854.
2. Swiecki-Sikora AL, Henry KA, **Kepka D**. HPV vaccination coverage among US teens across the rural-urban continuum. Journal of Rural Health. Jan 2019 (Epub ahead of print).
3. Henry KA, Stroup AM, Warner EL, **Kepka D**. Geographic factors and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination initiation among adolescent girls in the United States. Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*.* Jan 14 2016. PMID: 26768989. PMCID: PMC4817370.
4. **Kepka D**, Spigarelli MG, Warner EL, Yoneoka Y, McConnell N, Balch A. Statewide analysis of missed opportunities for human papillomavirus vaccination using vaccine registry data. Papillomavirus Research. 2016; 2:128-132. PMID: 27540595. PMCID: PMC4985178

5. Despite existing recommendations for HPV vaccination for adolescent girls since 2006 and for boys since 2011, uptake and completion of the HPV vaccine is far below national goals of 80% vaccination coverage. My interventional research work has elucidated the utility and efficacy of a *radionovela* to promote HPV vaccine awareness and knowledge among Latino parents and an electronic medical reminder prompt pilot test for a student health clinic on a university campus. These publications highlight my successful development of a culturally appropriate educational HPV vaccination intervention and a feasible clinic based intervention for primary care settings. In addition, I have also looked at the feasibility of HPV vaccination in pharmacy settings. This work has prepared me to be effective in developing and implementing future HPV vaccination interventions, both through my experiences and the mentorship I received. My role in these studies was to generate research questions, implement and evaluate a novel HPV vaccination intervention, conduct data analyses, and write manuscripts. These studies include:

1. **Kepka D**, Coronado G, Rodriguez H, Thompson B. Development of a *radionovela* to promote HPV vaccine awareness and knowledge among Latino parents. Public Health Reports. Jan/Feb 2012. PMID: 22298937. PMCID: PMC3234394.
2. **Kepka D**, Coronado GD, Rodriguez HP, Thompson B. Evaluation of a *radionovela* to promote HPV vaccine awareness and knowledge among Hispanic parents. J Community Health. Mar 31 2011. PMID: 21452030. PMCID: PMC4065612.
3. Martin S, Warner EL, Kirchhoff AC, Mooney R, Martel L, **Kepka D**. An electronic medical record alert intervention to improve HPV vaccination among eligible male college students at a university student health center. J Community Health*.* Feb 16 2018. PMID: 29453619.
4. Islam JY, Gruber JF, **Kepka D**, Kunwar M, Smith SB, Rothholz MC, Brewer NT, Smith JS. Pharmacist insights into adolescent human papillomavirus vaccination provision in the United States. Hum Vaccin Immunother. 2019;15(7-8):1839-1850. Epub 2019 Feb 6. PMID: 30550369

**Complete list of published work in My Bibliography:**

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/1riGmg5TtnIA4/bibliography/42764148/public/>