

# **ABSTRACT: 2015 ELAM Institutional Action Project Poster Symposium**

**Project Title:** Vanderbilt Certificate in Population Health

**Name and Institution:** Consuelo H. Wilkins, MD, MSCI; Vanderbilt University Medical Center

## **Collaborators:**

Susan M. Adams, PhD, RN; Melanie Lutenbacher, PhD, MSN; Sarah V. Suiter, PhD; Dominique Pareja Béhague, PhD; Jaco Hamman, PhD; Phillis Sheppard, PhD; Robert S. Dittus, MD, MPH; Jennifer K. Green, MD; Marie R. Griffin, MD, MPH; Douglas C. Heimburger, MD, MS; Elizabeth Heitman, Ph.D.; Yvonne A. Joosten, MPH; Michael E. Matheny, MD, MS, MPH; Russell Rothman, MD, MPP

## **Background, Challenge or Opportunity:**

Today's health professionals, researchers, educators and leaders must be prepared to address health issues at the population level, which requires an understanding of 1) community and population-level factors that influence health; 2) social, environmental and cultural determinants of health; and 3) the broad range of healthcare delivery systems. Although Vanderbilt excels in training students to deliver the highest quality of care to individuals, there is limited education and training in population health. A Certificate program in Community and Population Health will build on institutional expertise in prevention, community health, community engaged research, behavioral health, health equity research, public health, health policy and informatics and will serve as a nidus for education, training and interdisciplinary collaborations to advance the field of population health.

## **Purpose/Objectives:**

To develop a Certificate in Community and Population Health for masters and doctoral degree students at Vanderbilt University.

## **Methods/Approach:**

The approach to developing the certificate program requires the engagement of key institutional programs within and beyond the medical center, development of a value proposition and development of a curriculum. Specific steps include the following:

- (1) Obtaining input and buy-in from leaders of key programs related to community and population health including IMPH, medical education, school of nursing, mph, ethics, global health, health policy. (a) Meet with key medical center leaders who represent stakeholder programs. (b) Interview leaders outside medical center.
- (2) Eliciting input from medical center administrative leaders, including finance and operations.
- (3) Developing value proposition certificate program.
- (4) Recruiting members and convene Certificate in Population Health Steering Committee.
- (5) Presenting proposal for certificate program and corresponding budget to institutional leadership.

## **Outcomes and Evaluation Strategy:**

The key outcomes (deliverables) of the project are the development of the proposed certificate program in population health, creation of the population health steering committee, development of the curriculum, and creation of a value proposition. The evaluation strategy includes process measures- number of meetings with institutional leaders, number of steering committee meetings and participation level of committee members. Intermediate outcomes include cataloging existing trans-institutional courses, lectures and other educational programs with relevance to population health, creation of a database of faculty with scholarly expertise in areas relevant to population health, and completion of semi-structured interviews with administrators to identify barriers to implementing the certificate program and strategies to facilitate rapid uptake.

Consuelo H. Wilkins, MD, MSCI

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## BACKGROUND/CHALLENGE

Today's health professionals should be prepared to address health issues at the population level; however, Vanderbilt does not currently offer a training program in population health. A Certificate program in Population Health will build on institutional expertise in prevention, community engaged research, behavioral health, health equity research, public health, health policy and informatics and will serve as a nidus for education, training and transdisciplinary collaborations to advance the field of population health.

*"The scale and complexity of today's problems demand that investigators move beyond the confines of individual disciplines to realize the great promise of 21<sup>st</sup> century research."*

– National Institute of Health

## METHODS

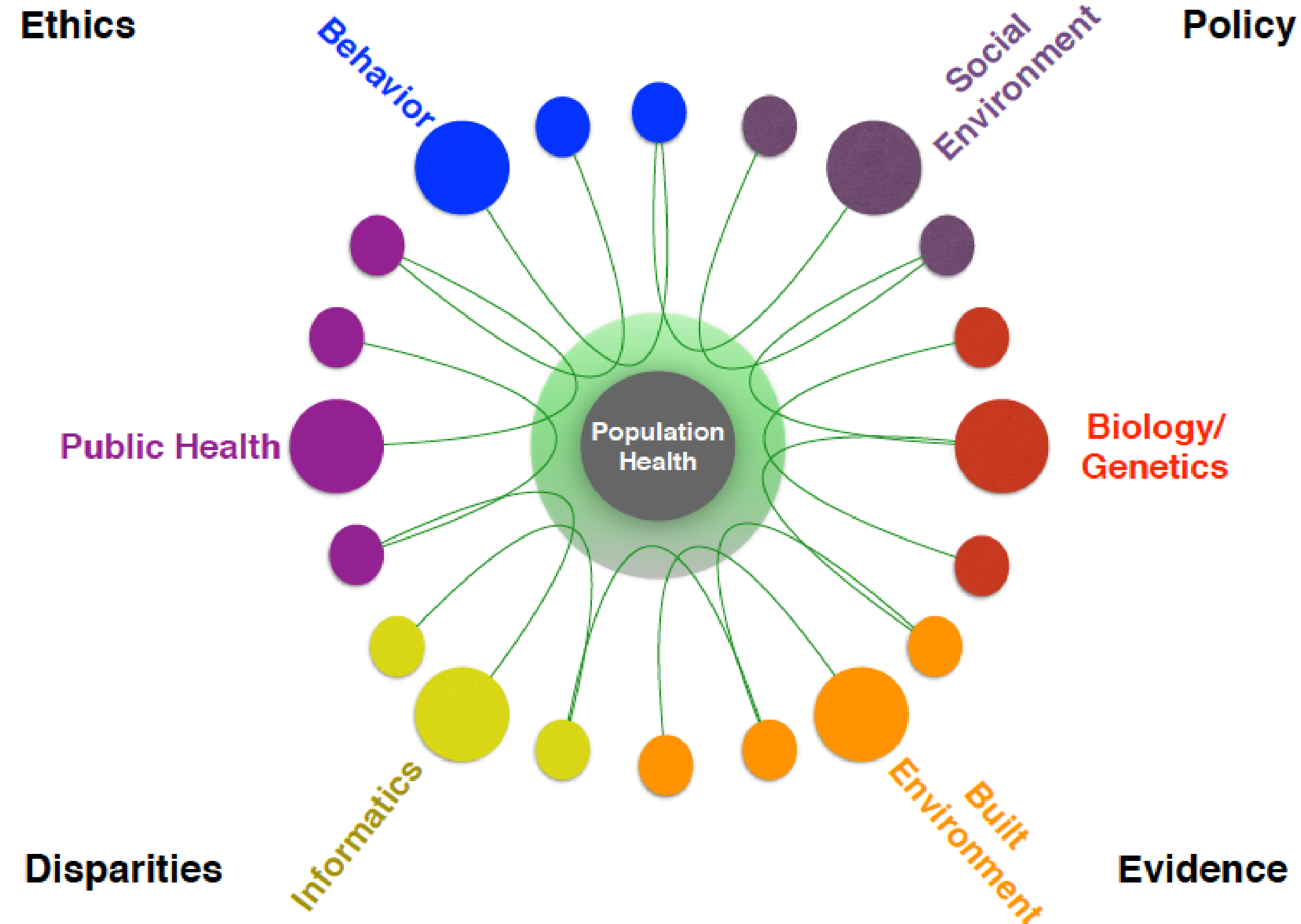
The approach to developing the certificate program requires the engagement of key institutional programs within and beyond the medical center, development of a value proposition, and development of a curriculum.

### Steps:

- (1) Obtain input and buy-in from leaders of key programs related to community and population health. (a) Meet with key medical center leaders who represent stakeholder programs. (b) Interview leaders outside medical center.
- (2) Elicit input from medical center administrative leaders.
- (3) Develop value proposition certificate program.
- (4) Recruit members and convene Certificate in Population Health Steering Committee.
- (5) Present proposal for certificate program and corresponding budget to institutional leadership.

## OBJECTIVE

To develop a Certificate in Population Health for masters, doctoral and professional students at Vanderbilt University.



## DISCUSSION

The Certificate program will provide opportunities to: (1) co-promote programs, share content across schools, (2) develop educational modules and courses, and (3) leverage existing programs to increase the prominence of population health within and beyond the University. To date, we have created the steering committee, conducted key informant interviews and begun to catalog existing lectures and courses. The steering committee submitted a proposal to create a Population Health Collaborative.

## Continuum of Disciplinary Integration

Disciplinary	Multidisciplinary	Interdisciplinary	Transdisciplinary
Assumptions, skills, methods, knowledge, within boundaries of a single discipline	Using methods and knowledge of more than one discipline	Use methods and knowledge of one discipline within another	Focus on an issues within and beyond disciplines' boundaries, possibility of new perspectives
Stays within academic boundaries and professional traditions.	Different disciplines work together occasionally but have different questions.	Regular interactions, draws on knowledge at intersection of disciplines.	Stimulates collaborations that integrate and transcend separate disciplinary perspectives
Psychologists develop obesity prevention program	Psychologists and anthropologists work on different aspects of obesity prevention	Psychologists and anthropologists use each others' methods to work independently	Psychologists and anthropologists create new framework and co-develop methods for obesity prevention



Adapted from Peccoud, Jean (2015): Fostering Transdisciplinary Science with Cyber-infrastructures

## EVALUATION STRATEGY/OUTCOMES

### Key outcomes:

- Creation of the population health steering committee
- Development of the proposed certificate program in population health
- Development of the curriculum
- Creation of a value proposition

### Intermediate outcomes include:

- Cataloging existing trans-institutional courses lectures and other educational programs with relevance to population health
- Creation of a database of faculty with scholarly expertise in areas relevant to population health
- Completion of semi-structured interviews with administrators to identify barriers to implementing the certificate program and strategies to facilitate rapid uptake

### Evaluation strategy:

- Process measures
- Number of meetings with institutional leaders
  - Number of steering committee meetings
  - Participation level of committee members

## CONCLUSION

This Certificate program is projected to have an impact beyond what is easily measured. By focusing on transdisciplinary collaborations, the faculty and students involved will develop a deeper appreciation for population health and other disciplines. These skills gained in the program will better position Vanderbilt faculty and students in population health. This institutional action project will To produce key deliverables in population health that will help build a strong foundation for Vanderbilt to become a hub for innovation in education and discovery in population health.