

# WHITNEY R. ROBINSON, PHD

mailing address: McGavran-Greenberg Hall, Campus Box 7435 · Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7435  
office phone: 919 966-7940 · e-mail: whitney\_robinson@unc.edu · Twitter: @WhitneyEpi

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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<b>Associate Professor of Epidemiology</b> <i>Gillings School of Global Public Health</i> <i>The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>	2017-present
<b>Fellow, Carolina Population Center</b> <i>The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>	2010-present
<b>Member, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center</b> <i>The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>	2010-present
<b>Assistant Professor of Epidemiology</b> <i>Gillings School of Global Public Health</i> <i>The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i>	2010-2017
<b>Robert Wood Johnson Health &amp; Society Scholar</b> <i>University of Michigan School of Public Health</i>	2008-2010

## EDUCATION

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<b>PhD, Epidemiology, August 2008</b> <i>The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DISSERTATION: Under the same roof: understanding gender differences in obesity prevalence among U.S. Black and White young adults</li><li>• MINOR: Biostatistics</li></ul>	2004-2008
<b>MSPH, Epidemiology, 2004</b> <i>The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• THESIS: Obesity before age 30 and later risk of advanced prostate cancer</li></ul>	2001-2004
<b>AB, cum laude, Biochemical Sciences, 2001</b> <i>Harvard University</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Language Citation in Spanish</li><li>• Study abroad: La Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain (Fall 2000)</li></ul>	1997-2001

## GRANT SUPPORT

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<b>Active</b> <b>Principal Investigator, 40% FTE</b> <b>NIMHD R01MD011680</b> "Racial Differences in Treatment with Hysterectomy: a Multilevel Investigation"	September 26, 2017 – June 30, 2022
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Direct costs: 2,404,268

Since the 1980s, hysterectomy, or uterus-removal surgery, has been extremely common and marked by large racial differences. It's not clear whether these racial differences are because of legitimate medical need or inequitable treatment by the healthcare system. Analyzing thousands of medical records, we will evaluate what's driving these long-standing racial differences: medical need or the culture of healthcare?

**Principal Investigator**, 10% FTE

January 12, 2017 – December 31, 2018

**NCI R03 CA212720**

“Resolving the Obesity Paradox in Kidney Cancer”

Direct costs: \$99,286

Even though obesity increases risk of getting kidney cancer, kidney cancer patients with obesity live longer than those who are normal-weight. This “obesity paradox” may mean that staying heavy is beneficial for survival, but that interpretation contradicts recommendations that obese cancer patients should lose weight. To resolve the contradiction between past studies and weight loss recommendations, we evaluate three possible explanations for the renal cell carcinoma “obesity paradox.”

**Junior Faculty Advisory Committee**

September 1, 2015 – August 31, 2020

3% FTE

**U54 CA156733**

“NCCU-LCCC Partnership in Cancer Research - Administrative Core”

Direct costs: \$137,391

The Administrative core is designed to keep minority disparities research a high priority at UNC Lineberger by continuing to develop in this area. A particular emphasis is made in attracting minority students, post-doc and junior faculty.

### **Completed**

**Principal Investigator**, 75% FTE

September 2012 - October 2017

**K01 CA172717**, National Cancer Institute

“Racial disparities in cancer outcomes: quantifying modifiable mechanisms”

Direct costs: \$591,705

**Cancer Research Network Scholars Program**

March 1, 2015 – April 30, 2017

Role: CRN Scholar, 20% FTE (subsumed within K01 CA172717)

**U24 CA171524.**

“Trends in surgical menopause and implications for breast cancer disparities: a pilot study of data from Kaiser Permanente Northern California”

Selected for HMO Cancer Research Network (CRN) Scholars Program, a training program for early-career scholars to develop research independence using CRN integrated health care systems data.

PI: Larry Kushi

**Principal Investigator**

September 2014 – May 2016

**Cancer Health Disparities Pilot Grant**, Carolina Community Network to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CCN II), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

“Inequalities in surgical menopause may contribute to North Carolina breast cancer disparities”

Direct costs: \$32,038

**Co-Investigator** January 2014 – December 2014  
**Pilot Grant**, Center for Integrative Approaches to Health Disparities, University of Michigan  
“Longitudinal Associations of Neighborhood-Level Racial Residential Segregation with  
Cardiometabolic Health”  
PI: Kiarri Kerhsaw, PhD (Northwestern University)  
Direct Costs: \$20,000

**Principal Investigator** January 2012 – December 2012  
**2012 Junior Faculty Development Award**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
“Throwing out the baby with the bathwater? Comparing two approaches to handling implausible  
values of body size”  
Direct Costs: \$7,500

**Principal Investigator** June 2011 – August 2011  
Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
**2011 Summer-in-Residence Grant Writing Fellowship** to write proposal for NIH career  
development award (resulting grant awarded September 2012)  
Direct Costs: \$15,000

**Principal Investigator** May 1, 2009 – August 31, 2010  
**Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars Small Grant Program**, University of  
Michigan  
“The contributions of parity and dieting behaviors to sex differences in the associations between  
socioeconomic position and obesity risk in US Black and White young adults”  
Direct Costs: \$24,345

**Not funded**

**Principal Investigator (MPI)**, 20% (Years 1-2), 15% (Years 3-5) submitted June 2017  
R01 (Project 2 of U54 MD012513)  
“A biopsychosocial approach to reducing young women’s cardiometabolic risk: integrating  
psychosocial data with electronic health records (EHR)”  
African-American, American Indian, and Latina women suffer excess burdens of illness and  
death related to diabetes and heart disease. These women are particularly at risk for chronic  
stress, which can worsen heart disease and diabetes. By joining data on neighborhood  
stressors and psychological stress to data from medical records, we can go beyond traditional  
medical risk factors and understand how minority women’s everyday lives and neighborhoods  
impact their heart and diabetes health.

**U54 MD012513**, “Center for Health Equity Across the Lifecourse” (in response to NIMHD RFA  
MD-17-005)  
PIs: Giselle Corbie-Smith, Allison Aiello

**Co-Investigator, 12.5% FTE** submitted May 2017  
**R01 (NIH/NIDDK)**  
“Diabetes risk and health change across generations of Mexican American families”  
Direct costs: \$2,649,162  
The overall goals of this project are to investigate the impact of changing socioeconomic and  
cultural patterns across generations of Mexican Americans (MAs) on rates of Type 2 diabetes  
(T2D) and related comorbidities, to examine the association between T2D and emergence of  
comorbidities over time, and to assess the impact of parental health conditions including T2D,

cardiovascular health, depressive symptoms, and cognitive impairment on adult offspring rates of T2D or changes in these conditions over 8 years.

**Principal Investigator**

submitted June 2015

**R01**, National Cancer Institute

“Are declining surgical menopause rates exacerbating Black-White cancer disparities?”

Direct Costs: \$2,141,151

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

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(Underline\* indicates a student/mentee for whom Dr. Robinson was primary advisor or senior author)

**UNDER REVIEW OR IN REVISION**

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- Ward JB, Gartner DR, Keyes KM, Fliss MD, McClure ES, **Robinson WR** (in revision). How do we assess a racial disparity in health? Distribution, interaction, and interpretation in epidemiological studies. *Annals of Epidemiology*

**PUBLISHED OR IN PRESS**

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1. Howe CJ, **Robinson WR** (in press). Survival-related selection bias in studies of racial health disparities: the importance of the target population and study design. *Epidemiology*
2. \*Gartner D, Doll KM, **Robinson WR** (in press). Contemporary geographic variation and socio-demographic correlates of hysterectomy rates among reproductive aged women. *Women & Health*
3. Pool LR, Carnethon MR, Goff DC Jr, Gordon-Larsen P, **Robinson WR**, Kershaw KN. 2018. Longitudinal Associations of Neighborhood-Level Racial Residential Segregation with Obesity Among Blacks. *Epidemiology* 29(2): 207-214. doi: 10.1097/EDE.0000000000000792. PMID: 29280853
4. \*DeBono N, **Robinson WR**, Lund J, Tse, CK, Moorman PG, Olshan, AF, Troester, MA. 2018. Race, menopausal hormone therapy, and invasive breast cancer in the Carolina Breast Cancer Study, 1993-2001. *Journal of Women's Health* 27(3): 377-386. PMID: 28570827 PMCID: PMC5865240
5. **Robinson WR**, Cheng MC, Howard AG, Carpenter WR, Brewster WR, Doll KM. 2017. For U.S. Black women, dissemination of hysterectomy to outpatient settings may have lagged behind White women: a claims-based analysis, 2011-2013. *BMC Health Services Research* 14(1): 526. doi: 10.1186/s12913-017-2471-1. PMID: 28778163; PMCID: PMC5545030
6. Troester MA, Sun X, Allott EH, Geardts J, Cohen SM, Tse CK, Kirk EL, Thorne LB, Mathews M, Li Y, Hu Z, **Robinson WR**, Hoadley KA, Olopade OI, Reeder-Hayes KE, Earp HS, Olshan AF, Carey LA, Perou CM. 2018. Racial Differences in PAM50 Subtypes in the Carolina Breast Cancer Study. 2017. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* 110(2). PMID: 28859290

7. Rosenbloom JM, Senthil K, Long AS, **Robinson WR**, Peeples KN, Fiadjoe JE, Litman RS. 2017. A Limited Evaluation of the Association of Race and Anesthetic Medication Administration: A Single-Center Experience with Appendectomies. *Pediatric Anesthesia* 27(11): 1142-1147. PMID: 28795523
8. Kershaw KN, **Robinson WR**, Gordon-Larsen P, Hicken MT, Goff DC, Carnethon MR, De Chavez, PJ, Diez Roux AV. 2017. Association of changes in neighborhood-level racial residential segregation with changes in blood pressure among Black Adults: the CARDIA Study. *JAMA Internal Medicine* 177(7): 966-1002. PMID: 28505341 PMCID: PMC5710452
9. Fernández-Rhodes L, Gong J, Haessler J, Franceschini N, Graff M, Nishimura KK, Wang Y, Highland HM, Yoneyama S, Bush WS, Goodloe R, Ritchie MD, Crawford D, Gross M, Fornage M, Buzkova P, Tao R, Isasi C, Avilés-Santa L, Daviglus M, Mackey RH, Houston D, Gu CC, Ehret G, Nguyen KH, Lewis CE, Leppert M, Irvin MR, Lim U, Haiman CA, Le Marchand L, Schumacher F, Wilkens L, Lu Y, Bottinger EP, Loos RJL, Sheu WH, Guo X, Lee WJ, Hai Y, Hung YJ, Absher D, Wu IC, Taylor KD, Lee IT, Liu Y, Wang TD, Quertermous T, Juang JJ, Rotter JI, Assimes T, Hsiung CA, Chen YI, Prentice R, Kuller LH, Manson JE, Kooperberg C, Smokowski P, **Robinson WR**, Gordon-Larsen P, Li R, Hindorff L, Buyske S, Matise TC, Peters U, North KE. 2017. Trans-ethnic fine-mapping of genetic loci for body mass index in the diverse ancestral populations of the Population Architecture using Genomics and Epidemiology (PAGE) Study reveals evidence for multiple signals at established loci. *Human genetics*. 2017; 136(6):771-800. PMID: 28391526; PMCID: PMC5485655
10. Ward J, Feinstein L, Vines A, **Robinson WR**, Haan M, Aiello A. 2017. Perceived discrimination and depressive symptoms among US Latinos: the modifying role of educational attainment. *Ethnicity and Health* 12:1-16. doi:10.1080/13557858.2017.1315378. PMID: 28399649, PMCID: PMC5683937
11. Fernández-Rhodes L, **Robinson WR**, Sotres-Alvarez D, Franceschini N, Castañeda SF, Buelna C, Moncrieft A, Llabre M, Daviglus ML, Qi Q, Agarwal A, Isasi CR, Smokowski P, Gordon-Larsen P, North KE. 2017. The Accuracy of Self-Reported Weight in a Diverse Population-Based Sample of Hispanic/Latino Adults from Four Urban United States Communities: the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos (HCHS/SOL). *Epidemiology* 28(6): 847-853. PMID: 28767517. PMCID: PMC5617765
12. \*Grabich SC, **Robinson WR**, Konrad CE, Horney JA. 2017. Impact of Hurricane Exposure on Reproductive Health Outcomes, Florida, 2004. *Disaster Med Public Health Prep* 11(4): 407-411. doi: 10.1017/dmp.2016.158
13. Durham DD, **Robinson WR**, Lee SS, Wheeler SB, Reeder-Hayes KE, Bowling JM, Olshan AF, Henderson LM. 2016. Insurance-Based Differences in Time to Diagnostic Follow-up after Positive Screening Mammography. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev*. 2016 Nov;25(11):1474-1482. PMID: 27803069
14. Grabich SC, **Robinson WR**, Engel SM, Konrad CE, Richardson DB, Horney JA. Hurricane Charley Exposure and Hazard of Preterm Delivery, Florida 2004. *Matern Child Health J*. 2016 Dec;20(12):2474-2482. PubMed PMID: 27485492.
15. Martin CL, Siega-Riz AM, Sotres-Alvarez D, **Robinson WR**, Daniels JL, Perrin EM, Stuebe AM. 2016. Maternal Dietary Patterns during Pregnancy Are Associated with Child Growth in

the First 3 Years of Life. *J Nutr* 146(11): 2281-2288

16. **Robinson WR**, Nichols HB, Tse CK, Olshan AF, Troster MA. 2016. Associations of premenopausal hysterectomy and oophorectomy and breast cancer among Black and White women: the Carolina Breast Cancer Study, 1993-2001. *American Journal of Epidemiology* 84(5): 388-99. doi: 10.1093/aje/kwv448
17. \*Doll KM, Dusetzina SB, **Robinson WR**. 2016. Trends in Inpatient and Outpatient Hysterectomy and Oophorectomy among Commercially Insured Women in the United States: 2000 – 2014. *JAMA Surgery* 151(9): 876-877 doi:10.1001/jamasurg.2016.0804
18. \*Durham DD, **Robinson WR**, Lee SS, Wheeler SB, Reeder-Hayes KE, Bowling JM, Olshan AF, Henderson LM. 2016. Insurance-based differences in time to diagnostic follow-up after positive screening mammography. *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention* 25 (11): 1474-1482.
19. \*Grabich SC, **Robinson WR**, Engel SM, Konrad CE, Richardson DB, Horney JA. 2016. Hurricane Charley Exposure and Hazard of Preterm Delivery, Florida 2004. *Maternal and Child Health* 20(12): 2474-2482
20. Sandt LS, Marshall SW, Rodriguez DA, Evenson KR, Ennett ST, **Robinson WR**. 2016. Effect of a community-based pedestrian injury prevention program on driver yielding behavior at marked crosswalks. *Accid Anal Prev* 93: 169-78. doi: 10.1016/j.aap.2016.05.004
21. \*Gartner DR, Taber DT, Hirsch JA, **Robinson WR**. 2016. The spatial distribution of gender differences in obesity prevalence differs from overall obesity prevalence among US adults. *Annals of Epidemiology* 26(4): 293-8. doi: 10.1016/j.annepidem.2016.02.010
22. Sandt LS, Marshall SW, Rodriguez DA, Evenson KR, Ennett ST, **Robinson WR**. Effect of a community-based pedestrian injury prevention program on driver yielding behavior at marked crosswalks. *Accident Analysis & Prevention* 93:169-78. doi: 10.1016/j.aap.2016.05.004
23. Stern D, Poti JM, Ng SW, **Robinson WR**, Gordon-Larsen P, Popkin BM. 2016. Where people shopped was not associated with the nutrient quality of packaged foods for any racial-ethnic group in the United States. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 103(4): 1125-34. doi: 10.3945/ajcn.115.121806
24. Martin CM Siega-Riz AM, Sotres-Alvarez D, **Robinson WR**, Daniels JL, Perrin EM, Stuebe AM. 2016. Maternal dietary patterns are associated with lower levels of cardiometabolic markers during pregnancy. *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology* 30(3): 246-55. doi: 10.1111/ppe.12279
25. Taber DR, **Robinson WR**, Bleich SN, Wang YC. 2016. Deconstructing race and gender differences in adolescent obesity: Oaxaca-Blinder decomposition. *Obesity* 24(3): 719-26. doi: 10.1002/oby.21369
26. Sun X, Nichols HB, Tse CK, Bell MB, **Robinson WR**, Sherman ME, Olshan AF, Troester MA. 2016. Association of Parity and Time since Last Birth with Breast Cancer Prognosis by Intrinsic Subtype. *Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers & Prevention* 25 (1): 60-67. pii: cebp.0864.2015. PMID: 26545404

27. \*Grabich SC, **Robinson WR**, Engel SM, Konrad CE, Richardson DB, Horney JA. 2015. County-level hurricane exposure and birth rates: application of difference-in-differences analysis for confounding control. *Emerging Themes in Epidemiology* 12:19. doi: 10.1186/s12982-015-0042-7
28. Stern D, **Robinson WR**, Ng SW, Gordon-Larsen P, Popkin BM. 2015. US household food shopping patterns: dynamic shifts in the past thirteen years and socioeconomic predictors. *Health Affairs* 34(11): 1840-8. doi: 10.1377/hlthaff.2015.0449. PMID: 26526241
29. Taber DR, Chriqui JF, Powell LM, Perna FM, **Robinson WR**, Chaloupka FJ. 2015. Socioeconomic Differences in the Association Between Competitive Food Laws and the School Food Environment. *Journal of School Health*, 85(9): 578–586. doi: 10.1111/josh.12288
30. D’Arcy M, Fleming J, **Robinson WR**, Kirk EL, Perou CM, Troester MA. 2015. Race-associated biological differences among Luminal A breast tumors. *Breast Cancer Research and Treatment*, 152(2): 437–448. doi: 10.1007/s10549-015-3474-4
31. Hair BY, Xu Z, Kirk EL, Harlid S, Sandhu R, **Robinson WR**, Wu MC, Olshan AF, Conway K, Taylor JA, Troester MA. 2015. Body mass index associated with genome-wide methylation in breast tissue. *Breast Cancer Research & Treatment*, 151(2): 453-63. doi: 10.1007/s10549-015-3401-8
32. \*Seamans MJ, **Robinson WR**, Thorpe RJ Jr., Cole SR, LaVeist TA. 2015. Exploring racial differences in the obesity gender gap. *Annals of Epidemiology* 25(6): 420-5. doi:10.1016/j.annepidem.2015.03.010  
*Paper awarded 2016 departmental Berton Kaplan Student Publication Award for best student paper accepted for publication in 2015.*
33. Zeki Al Hazzouri A, Haan MN, **Robinson WR**, Gordon-Larsen P, Garcia L, Clayton E, Aiello A. 2015. Associations of intergenerational education with metabolic health in US Latinos. *Obesity* 23(5): 1097-1104. doi: 10.1002/oby.21051
34. Hair B, Troester MA, Edmiston SN, Parrish EA, **Robinson WR**, Wu MC, Olshan AF, Swift-Scanlan T, Conway K. 2015. Body Mass Index is Associated with Gene Methylation in Estrogen Receptor-Positive Breast Tumors. *Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers & Prevention* doi: 10.1158/1055-9965 PMID: 25583948
35. **Robinson WR**, Kershaw KN, Mezuk B, Rafferty J, Lee H, Johnson-Lawrence V, Seamans MJ, Jackson JS. 2015. Coming unmoored: Disproportionate increases in obesity prevalence among young, disadvantaged White women. *Obesity* 23(1): 213-9
36. Suglia SF, Kara S, **Robinson WR**. 2014. Sleep duration and obesity among adolescents transitioning to adulthood: Do results differ by sex? *Journal of Pediatrics* 165(4):750-4
37. Jensen E, Daniels D, Stürmer T, **Robinson WR**, Williams C, Vejrup K, Moster D, Juliusson P, Magnus P, Longnecker M. 2014. Hormonal contraceptive use before and after conception in relation to preterm birth and small for gestational age: an observational cohort study. *British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* doi: 10.1111/1471-0528 PMID 25318662

38. Jensen E, Daniels D, Stürmer T, **Robinson WR**, Williams C, Moster D, Juliusson P, Vejrup K, Magnus P, Longnecker M. 2014. Maternal hormonal contraceptive use and offspring overweight or obesity. *International Journal of Obesity* 38(10):1275-81
39. **Robinson WR**, Tse CK, Olshan AF, Troester MA. 2014. Body size across the life course and risk of premenopausal and postmenopausal breast cancer in Black women, the Carolina Breast Cancer Study, 1993-2001. *Cancer Causes & Control* 25(9): 1101-17
40. VanderWeele T, **Robinson WR**. 2014. On causal interpretations of race in regressions adjusting for confounding and mediating variables. *Epidemiology* 25(4): 473-84
41. \*Gray CL, **Robinson WR**. 2014. Throwing out the baby with the bathwater? Comparing two approaches to handling implausible values of change in body size. *Epidemiology* 25(4): 591-594
42. **Robinson WR**, Cheng MC, Hoggatt KJ, Stürmer T, Siega Riz AM. 2013. Childbearing is not associated with young women's long-term obesity risk. *Obesity* 22(4):1126-32
43. Kershaw KN, Droomers M, **Robinson WR**, Carnethon MR, Daviglius ML, Verschuren WMM. 2013. Quantifying the contributions of behavioral and biological risk factors to socioeconomic disparities in coronary heart disease incidence: The MORGEN study. *European Journal of Epidemiology* 28 (10): 807-14
44. Yaemsiri S, Sen S, Lesley T, **Robinson WR**, Evans R, Rosamond W, Wasserthiel-Smoller S, He K. 2013. Serum fatty acids and incidence of ischemic stroke among postmenopausal women. *Stroke* 44 (10): 2710-7
45. **Robinson WR**, Keyes KM, Utz RL, Martin CL, Yang Y. 2013. Birth cohort effects among adults born in the 1980s: Foreshadowing future trends in U.S. obesity prevalence. *International Journal of Obesity* 37 (3): 448-454. doi: 10.1038/ijo.2012.66
46. **Robinson WR**, Utz RL, Keyes KM, Martin CL, Yang Y. 2012. Birth cohort effects on abdominal obesity in the United States: the Silent Generation, Baby Boomers, and Generation X. *International Journal of Obesity* 37 (8): 1129-34. doi: 10.1038/ijo.2012.198
47. **Robinson WR**. 2012. Gender-specific effects of early nutritional restriction on adult obesity risk: evidence from quasi-experimental studies. *Obesity* 20 (12): 2464-6
48. Keyes KM, Utz RL, **Robinson WR**, Li G. 2010. What is a cohort effect? Comparison of three statistical methods for modeling cohort effects in obesity prevalence in the United States, 1971-2006. *Social Science & Medicine* 70 (7): 1100-8
49. **Robinson WR**, Stevens J, Kaufman JS, Gordon-Larsen P. 2010. The role of adolescent behaviors in the female-male disparity in obesity incidence in U.S. Black and White young adults. *Obesity* 18 (7): 1429-36
50. **Robinson WR**, Gordon-Larsen P, Kaufman JS, Suchindran CM, Stevens J. 2009. The female-male disparity in obesity prevalence among Black American young adults: contributions of sociodemographic characteristics of the childhood family. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 89 (4): 1204-1212

51. **Robinson WR**, Poole C, Godley PA. 2008. Systematic review of prostate cancer's association with body size in childhood and young adulthood. *Cancer Causes & Control* 19 (8): 793-803.
52. Carpenter WR, **Robinson WR**, Godley PA. 2008. Getting over testosterone: postulating a fresh start for etiologic studies of prostate cancer. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* 100 (3): 158-9
53. **Robinson WR**, Stevens J, Gammon MD, John EM. 2005. Obesity before age 30 and risk of advanced prostate cancer. *American Journal of Epidemiology* 161 (12): 1107-1114

## COMMENTS & LETTERS

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1. Snowden JM, **Robinson WR**, Marshall NE, Boone-Heinonen J. 2016. Race, obesity, and birth outcomes: unraveling a complex association to improve maternal-child health. *Obesity* 24(12): 2447. doi: 10.1002/oby.21642
2. VanderWeele TJ, **Robinson WR**. 2014. The authors respond. *Epidemiology* 25(6): 937-8. doi: 10.1097/EDE.000000000000186
3. VanderWeele TJ, **Robinson WR**. 2014. Rejoinder: how to reduce racial disparities?: upon whom to intervene? *Epidemiology* 25(4): 491-3
4. **Robinson WR**, Furberg H, Banack HR. 2014. Selection bias: A missing factor in the Obesity Paradox debate. *Obesity* 22(3): 625
5. Naimi AI, Kaufman JS, Howe CJ, **Robinson WR**. 2011. Mediation considerations: serum potassium and the racial disparity in diabetes risk. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 94 (2): 614-6

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS (SELECTED)

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- **Robinson WR** (INVITED). March 29, 2018. "Race, Biomedicine, and Reproductive Justice: Loretta Ross and Whitney Robinson in Dialogue." Race and Biomedicine Working Group. <https://b.gatech.edu/2IRinSO> (Georgia Tech and Spelman College) (Atlanta, GA)
- **Robinson WR** (INVITED). Sept 27, 2017. SERTalks, UNC. "Where the rubber meets the road: Exchangeability, positivity, and consistency in health disparities research." A quarterly workshop of the Society for Epidemiologic Research, entitled, "Applications of Causal Inference Methods in Four Substantive Areas: New methods, what works (and what doesn't), and future directions." Other speakers: Daniel Westreich, Steve Cole, Alex Keil, Til Strmer, and Jenny Lund (discussant). <https://uncsph.mediasite.mcn.org/mcnc/FileServer/2fa71667-5d89-4131-b70d-d2cac9fa99c1/Presentation/4b4f507fe2554e4b9cbb63184c1c6b541d/videopodcast.mp4>
- **Robinson WR** (INVITED). June 2017. "No causation without manipulation? Moving beyond description in health disparities research." Part of symposium, "50/50: Epidemiology's next 50 years through the lens of the last 50" The Future of Epidemiology." 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting of the Society for Epidemiologic Research. (Seattle, WA)

- **Robinson WR** (INVITED). 2017. Environmental Protection Agency. Presentation and expert consultation for group considering how to incorporate social determinants in a systematic review on health effects of particulate matter (Research Triangle Park, NC)
- **Robinson WR** (INVITED). 2016. “Causal inference in cancer health disparities research: Where the rubber meets the road.” Harvard University School of Medicine, Department of Health Care Policy (Boston, MA).
- **Robinson WR** (INVITED). 2016. Dahod Visiting Professorship Lecture. “Causal inference in cancer health disparities research: Where the rubber meets the road.” Boston University School of Medicine (Boston, MA).
- Gartner D, Doll KM, **WR Robinson**. 2016. Hysterectomy in North Carolina: Contextual factors associated with higher county-level rates (POSTER). Annual meeting of the Population Association of American (Washington DC).
- Gartner D, Doll KM, **Robinson WR**. 2016. Area health resources, patient characteristics, and bilateral oophorectomy at time of hysterectomy in North Carolina: A multilevel analysis (POSTER). Annual meeting of Academy Health (Boston, MA)
- **Robinson WR**, Cheng MC, Doll KM. 2015. Investigating Racial Inequalities in Rates of Premenopausal Bilateral Oophorectomy Using Claims-Based Data, North Carolina 2011-2013. AACR Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved (Atlanta, GA).
- **Robinson WR** (INVITED). 2015. On Causal Interpretations of Race in Regressions Adjusting for Confounding and Mediating Variables. Joint Statistical Meetings, Annual Meeting of the American Statistical Association (Seattle, WA)
- **Robinson WR**, Tse CK, Olshan AF, Troester AF. 2014. Early gynecologic surgery and breast cancer risk among Black and White women in the U.S. South. Annual Meeting of the Society for Epidemiology Research.
- **Robinson WR** (INVITED). 2014. Then and Now: Nutritional Epidemiology. Annual Meeting of the Society for Epidemiology Research.
- Durham D, **Robinson WR\***, Lee L, Wheeler S, Bowling J, Henderson L. 2014. Disparities in time to diagnostic follow-up after screening mammography. AACR Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved (San Antonio, TX).
- Seamans MJ, **Whitney Robinson\***. 2014. Thin Men, Heavy Women: How Distress and Gendered Strategies of Coping May Explain Sex Differences in Obesity in Poor, Urban Communities. Annual meeting of the Population Association of America (Boston, MA).
- PRESENTATION (INVITED): **Robinson WR**. 2013. The causal effect of childbearing on obesity risk: a propensity-score analysis. Epidemiology Brown Bag Series, Duke University (Durham, NC).

- PRESENTATION (INVITED): **Robinson WR**. 2013. The causal effect of childbearing on obesity risk: a propensity-score analysis. Environment, Molecules, and Population Health research group, Department of Epidemiology, Columbia University (New York, NY).
- PRESENTATION (INVITED): **Robinson WR**. 2012. The causal effect of childbearing on obesity risk: a propensity-score analysis. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (Research Triangle Park, NC).
- PRESENTATION (INVITED): **Robinson WR**. 2012. Gender disparities in adult obesity: investigating behavioral and social factors in childhood. Session: How Measurement and Modeling of Social Determinants of Health Can Inform Actions to Reduce Disparities. National Conference on Health Statistics (NCHS), sponsored by the CDC (Washington, D.C.)
- PRESENTATION (INVITED): **Robinson WR**. 2012. The causal effect of childbearing on postpartum obesity risk: a propensity-score analysis. 25th Annual Meeting of the Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research (SPER) (Minneapolis, MN).
- PRESENTATION (INVITED): **Robinson WR**. 2012. Developmental origins of adult obesity: selected epidemiologic findings. Division of Epidemiology, The Ohio State University College of Public Health (Columbus, OH).
- PRESENTATION (INVITED): **Robinson WR**. 2011. Causal Inference in Inequalities Research. *Meeting title*: Inequalities in childhood and adolescent health. Sponsors: Medical Research Council Centre for Causal Analyses in Translational Epidemiology, Centre for Market and Public Organisation. University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom.
- PRESENTATION (INVITED): **Robinson WR**. 2011. A causal approach to health disparities research: interpreting coefficients for race and sex. Dept. of Epidemiology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.
- PRESENTATION (INVITED): **Robinson WR**, Kaufman JK. 2010. A structural approach to bias in health disparities research. *Symposium title*: Issues in Measuring Health Disparities. Annual meeting of the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
- PRESENTATION (INVITED): **Robinson WR**. 2010. Stratification biases in disparities research: Implications for covariate adjustment. *Symposium title*: Causal Methods in Health Disparities Epidemiology. Annual meeting of the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER), Seattle,
- PRESENTATION: **Robinson WR**. 2010. Can the Nature/Nurture paradigm be salvaged? Integrating Genetics and the Social Sciences (funded by Population Association of America), Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, CO.
- PRESENTATION (INVITED): **Robinson, WR**. 2008. Unraveling the female-male disparity in Black American obesity prevalence: the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. Annual meeting of The Obesity Society (TOS), Phoenix, AZ.
- PRESENTATION: **Robinson, WR**, Gordon-Larsen P, Stevens J. 2007. Black Americans' female-male disparity in obesity risk is associated with childhood family factors: the National

Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. Annual meeting of the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER), Boston, MA.

- PRESENTATION: **Robinson, WR**, Gordon-Larsen P, Stevens J. 2007. Family context has differential effect on obesity risk in Black females versus Black males. Women's Health Research Day (UNC School of Medicine), Chapel Hill, NC.
- PRESENTATION: **Robinson WR**, Stevens J, Gammon MD, John EM. 2004. Obesity before age 30 and later risk of advanced prostate cancer. Annual meeting of the North American Association for the Study of Obesity (now The Obesity Society), Las Vegas, NV.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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### Ad hoc reviewer

**Journals:** American Journal of Epidemiology, American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology, American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Cancer Causes & Control, Environmental Health Perspectives, Epidemiologic Methods, Epidemiology, International Journal of Obesity, JAMA, Medical Care, Obesity, Social Science & Medicine

**The Society for Epidemiologic Research** July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

**The Society for Epidemiologic Research** July 1, 2013-June 30, 2016  
*Communications Committee*

**UNC Interdisciplinary Certificate in Health Disparities** 2011-present  
*Member of Advisory Board*

**UNC Social Epidemiology Journal Club** 2010-2015  
*Faculty Advisor*

**The Obesity Society** 2013-2014  
*Annual Program Committee, Population Health/Policy Track*

**The Society for Epidemiologic Research annual meeting** June 2013  
*Chair. Concurrent session on Obesity/Nutrition*

**The Society for Epidemiologic Research annual meeting** June 2013  
*Symposium Chair. "New methods for an old epidemiologic problem: Age, period, and cohorts effects."*

**African American Collaborative Obesity Research Network** 2010-present  
*Affiliate. Collaboration of U.S. researchers and research partners dedicated to improving research to address weight-related health issues in African Americans.*

**The Society for Epidemiologic Research annual meeting** June 29, 2012  
*Symposium Co-chair. "Effect Decomposition: The Lost Epidemiologic Analysis."*

**The Society for Epidemiologic Research annual meeting** June 29, 2012  
*Panelist. Lunch panel, "Life of Postdocs & Junior Faculty."*

- Carolina Population Center Undergraduate Research Internship** Summer 2012  
*Preceptor.* Mentored rising college senior on summer research project.
- The Obesity Society annual meeting** October 2011  
*Symposium Co-chair.* “The Toxic Food Environment Across the Life Course.”
- The Obesity Society annual meeting** October 10, 2010  
*Symposium Chair.* “Environment and Policy Influences on Obesity.”
- The Society for Epidemiologic Research annual meeting** June 2010  
*Symposium Chair.* Organized symposium, “Neighborhood effects on obesity and physical activity: novel study designs for hard-to-study questions.”
- The Obesity Society annual meeting** October 26, 2009  
*Symposium Co-chair.* Co-organized symposium, “Food and Beverage Marketing as Obesogenic Influences in Children’s Environments: New Insights From New Lines of Research.”

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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- **Award for Teaching Excellence and Innovation, Epidemiology Department**, April 2018  
Nominated by students and selected by the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health as faculty “who has inspired students; enhanced student learning through creative, engaging and innovative teaching methods; and supported students’ academic success and professional development.”
- **Poster Presentation Prize**, June 2015  
“Recognition of Meritorious Poster Presentation for the 2015 National Cancer Institute Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD) Professional Development and Mock Review Workshop”
- **“Then and Now” speaker**, June 2014  
Selected as an inaugural speaker for Society for epidemiologic Research “Then and Now” special session on Nutritional Epidemiology
- **Fellow of The Obesity Society**, January 28, 2013  
“One of the highest honors The Obesity Society bestows. This prestigious mark of distinction highlights your contributions to the field of obesity research, treatment and prevention.”
- **Abstract Award, Diversity Tour**, October 2011  
Best submissions related to diverse populations in the field of obesity  
*The Obesity Society, annual meeting, Orlando, FL*
- **Delta Omega**, the honorary public health society, inducted April 2007
- **Latane Family Fellowship in Human Science**, 2006-2007  
*Center for Human Science, Chapel Hill, NC*

- **Caroline H. and Thomas S. Royster Jr. Fellowship**, 2001-2007  
*University of North Carolina Graduate School*
- **National Research Service Award Institutional Research Training Grant**, 2003-2006  
*National Cancer Institute/University of North Carolina*
- **SER Student Workshop**, June 27, 2005  
*Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER), 2005 SER/CSEB conference, Toronto*  
One of 12 students chosen to present methodological issue before senior epidemiologists

## **MENTORING: PRIMARY ADVISOR**

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### **Current**

**Danielle Gartner**, Doctoral student (dissertation defense expected 2018)  
2017 – 2019: **F31 HD090934** awardee: “Non-clinical and contextual factors associated with hysterectomy in North Carolina.” Role (Robinson): Co-mentor  
2014 – present: **Carolina Population Center Predoctoral fellow**. Role (Robinson): Preceptor

**Mya Roberson**, MSPH student (master’s presentation expected 2018)  
Master’s thesis (tentative): Premenopausal hysterectomy and oophorectomy and breast cancer-specific mortality among Black and White women: the Carolina Breast Cancer Study, 1991-2001  
2017 – 2022: **Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Research Scholar**. Role (Robinson): Mentor

### **Faculty mentees**

**Ballington L. Kinlock, Jr. PhD**, mentee for NCCU/LCCC Partnership in Cancer Research U54 pilot  
2017 – present: Assistant Professor, Department of Biological & Biomedical Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences North Carolina Central University  
Cancer Research Program & Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute

### **Completed**

**Jennifer Yourkavitch**, PhD received 2017  
**Dissertation:** The influence of regular breast milk pumping in the early postpartum period on breastfeeding duration among working mothers in the U.S.

Danielle Durham, PhD received 2016  
**Dissertation:** Insurance status and diagnostic follow-up disparities in breast cancer screening  
**NCI F31 CA180755** January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2015  
“Insurance type and diagnostic resolution disparities in breast cancer screening”  
Role (Robinson): Co-mentor  
**Current position:** Cancer Prevention Fellow, National Cancer Institute

**Shannon Grabich**, PhD received 2015  
**Dissertation:** Associations between hurricane weather exposure and pregnancy outcome: Demonstration of ecological and individual-level methods  
**Current position:** Epidemiology Manager, Amgen

**Nathan DeBono**, MSPH received 2015

**Master's thesis:** The association between post-menopausal hormone replacement therapy and incidence of invasive breast cancer among Black and White women in the Carolina Breast Cancer Study, 1993-2001

**Current position:** Doctoral student, Epidemiology, UNC at Chapel Hill

**Marissa Seamans**, MSPH received 2014

**Master's thesis:** Exploring racial modification of the obesity gender gap: Race or Place?

**Current Position:** Doctoral student, Epidemiology, UNC at Chapel Hill

**Jennifer Olsen**, MSPH received 2011

**Master's thesis:** Soft drink consumption and prevalence of overweight among young adult Filipinos

### **CLASSROOM TEACHING (SELECTED)**

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**Lead Instructor**

Spring 2012 - present

*Epidemiology Dept., UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health*

Course: Social Epidemiology: Analysis and Interpretation

Approved course: UNC Interdisciplinary Certificate in Health Disparities; Carolina Population Center population health pre-doctoral training grant

**Co-instructor**

Fall 2011, Fall 2012

*Epidemiology Dept., UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health*

Course: Epidemiologic Analysis of Binary Data

**Teaching Assistant**

Spring 2005

*Epidemiology Dept., UNC School of Public Health*

Course: Theory and Quantitative Methods in Epidemiology