

Implementation Science and Health Systems

Department of International Health

The Department of International Health is committed to helping the world's most vulnerable and disadvantaged people improve their health and well-being, wherever they live.

Our work on health systems research and implementation science intends to support the design and evaluation of health systems strengthening strategies, as well as implementation processes. Faculty across the program apply different disciplinary lenses to health systems research – from economics to biostatistics and management theory – and our implementation research typically works closely with implementers to understand how interventions can best be adapted to their particular context. We apply science to ensure strong health systems that can rapidly scale up effective interventions, particularly for the poor.

Meet Some of Our Implementation Science and Health Systems Faculty

David Peters, MD, DrPH, MPH Edgar Berman Professor & Chair Director, Alliance for a Healthier World



Dr. Peters is an internationally renowned expert in health systems who has worked as a researcher, policy advisor, educator, manager, and clinician in dozens of low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). His work seeks to improve the performance of health systems in LMICs through implementation science and by building institutional capacity and creating innovations in organization, technology, and financing of health systems. While working at the World Bank, he pioneered Sector Wide Approaches (SWAp) in health, a strategy used by countries to define and implement national strategies and the allocation of foreign aid. In India, he led a research program with local researchers, government, and civil society to examine health systems and inequities, which became the basis for the Rural Health Mission and policies to improve access and financing for health care. In Afghanistan, he created the first nationally implemented Balanced Scorecard to assess and manage health services and conducted research that directly led to the end of user fees in primary care facilities. During the 2014-16 West Africa Ebola epidemic, Peters worked closely with the Ministry of Health in Liberia to help re-focus the outbreak strategy on integrated community-based responses, contributing to a quicker end to the epidemic.

Select Publications

Peters DH, Adam T, Alonge O, Agyepong I, Tran N. *Implementation research: What it is and how to do it.* *BMJ* 2013 347:f6753 doi: 10.1136/bmj.f6753

Peters DH, Nyenswah T, Engineer CY. *Leadership in Times of Crisis: The Example of Ebola Virus Disease in Liberia.* *Health Systems & Reform.* 2016; 2:194-207, DOI: 10.1080/23288604.2016.1222793

Rosemary Morgan, PhD Assistant Scientist



Dr. Morgan's research focuses on two main areas: (1) gender and health systems, particularly how gender power relations create inequities within different areas of the health system; and (2) how the intersection of social stratifiers leads to different experiences of disadvantage and marginalization within the health system. She is particularly interested in how gender inequities affect health system leadership, namely women's career progression and advancement and how gender intersects with race and disability to influence women's access to and use of maternal health services.

Select Publications

Morgan, Rosemary et al. 2018. *Gendered Health Systems: Evidence from Low- and Middle-Income Countries.* *Health Research Policy and Systems* 16(1):58.

Morgan, R., George, A., Ssali, S., Hawkins, K., Molyneux, S., & Theobald, S. (2016). *How to do (or not to do)... gender analysis in health systems research.* *Health Policy and Planning*, 31(8), 1069-1078.

Olakunle O. Alonge, MD Assistant Professor



My research interest is focused on the application of traditional methods combined with novel approaches in implementation research and systems science to study complex programs and health systems strengthening strategies in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). My research objectives are focused on improving delivery of quality health services to disadvantaged populations; implementing and scale-up of effective public health programs; and reducing the burden of child injuries in LMICs.

(continued on reverse)

Implementation Science and Health Systems

Assistant Professor Olakunle O. Alonge (cont.)

Select Publications

Alonge O, Gupta S, Engineer C, Salehi AS, Peters DH. *Editor's Choice: Assessing the pro-poor effect of different contracting schemes for health services on health facilities in rural Afghanistan. Health Policy and Planning. 2015 Dec 1(30/10).*

Alonge O, Lin S, Igusa T, Peters DH. *Improving health systems performance in low- and middle-income countries: a system dynamics model of the pay-for-performance initiative in Afghanistan. Health policy and planning. 2017; 32(10):1417-1426.*

George Pariyo, PhD Senior Scientist

Dr. Pariyo's research focuses on designing and conducting research that tests new or innovative strategies and ways to deliver or optimize health interventions to achieve universal health coverage at a cost that the countries, communities and families can afford. Current special areas of focus include health systems in low- and middle-income countries, noncommunicable diseases, digital health, mHealth and data quality, health management information systems, health workforce, delivery of vaccines and immunizations, and quality of care for MNCH.



Select Publications

Pariyo GW, Wosu AC, Gibson DG, Labrique AB, Ali J, Hyder AA (2017). *Moving the Agenda on Noncommunicable Diseases: Policy Implications of Mobile Phone Surveys in Low and Middle-Income Countries. J Med Internet Res 2017;19(5):e115. URL: <http://www.jmir.org/2017/5/e115>. DOI: 10.2196/jmir.7302.*

George W. Pariyo, Chrispus Mayora, Olico Okui, Freddie Ssengooba, David H. Peters, David Serwadda, Henry Lucas, Gerald Bloom, Hafizur M. Rahman, Elizabeth Ekirapa-Kiracho. "Exploring new health markets: Experiences from informal providers of transport for maternal health services in Eastern Uganda". *BMC International Health and Human Rights* 2011, 11(Suppl 1):S10 (9 March 2011).

Ligia Paina, PhD Assistant Professor

My research aims to improve understanding of how to intervene in complex systems in order to ensure quality and affordable health care access, particularly for poor, rural, and underserved populations. I am interested in applying multi- and trans-disciplinary approaches to strengthen organizational and research capacity, to improve health workforce management and policy, and to understand system adaptation, particularly in health systems in transition.



Select Publications

Bishai D, Paina L, Li Q, Peters D, Hyder A. *Advancing the application of systems thinking in health: Why cure crowds out prevention - a systems dynamics model. Health Res Policy Syst. 2014 Jun 16;12(1):28.*

Paina L, Ssengooba F, Waswa D, M'imunya JM, Bennett S. *How does investment in research training affect the development of research networks and collaborations? Health Res Policy Syst. 2013 May 20;11:18.*

Examples of Current Projects

The Synthesis and Translation of Research and Innovations from Polio Eradication (STRIFE)

Uttar Pradesh Health Systems Support Project

Data for Health (D4H) Initiative

Course Highlights

Implementation Research and Practice

Health Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Introduction to Digital Health in LMICs

Learn more about our master's and doctoral degree program

<https://tinyurl.com/IH-Hopkins-degrees>

Department of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School for Public Health

For over half a century, the Department of International Health has led the way in developing and testing means to improve health and deliver cost-effective services. As part of our mission to help the world's most vulnerable and disadvantaged people improve their health and well-being, we are committed to helping communities build and utilize local capacity.