

November 2020

## UT Faculty Spotlight



**Dr. Liem Tran**

Dr. Tran and a team of geographers have developed a project that uses cutting-edge geospatial technologies including Geographic Information Systems (GIS), spatial analysis tools, and web-based applications to combat the opioid crisis in a collaborative, proactive, and effective fashion.

They are facilitating, enhancing, and integrating efforts among state and local governments, health and safety agencies, and community organizations in Tennessee to help our state put an end to this crisis.

The project "Orchestrating the efforts to fight the opioid crisis in Tennessee with geospatial technologies" is funded through the One UT Collaboration and Innovation Grant.

The team has developed 11 interactive dashboards. The TN Drug-Related Mortality in TN from 2012-2017 can be accessed from the [SMART Dashboard](#). All 11 dashboards can be accessed at through the [SMART Policy Network](#).

*Substance Misuse*

*Community of Scholars*

# Newsletter

We are working to recruit new members from the other campuses in the system and will welcome them at the next meeting on November 19th at noon EST. We will also discuss the SMART Policy Network and collaboration with the CoS. Dr. Liem Tran will also be present to briefly demonstrate his opioid GIS applications. Please make an effort to join, it is more important than ever that we all stay connected. We look forward to seeing you then.

## Next meeting November 19th

**12:00-1:00pm**



National Institute  
on Drug Abuse

The National Institute on Drug Abuse invites you to a virtual NIDA Career Workshop on **Monday, November 9, 2020 - 1 pm to 4 pm** Eastern.

This virtual event is FREE and open to the public, but registration is required for all attendees.

[Click link for details.](#)



## Network Announced

The SMART Policy Network was announced by President Boyd at the October Board of Trustees meeting. [Here is a link to the press release.](#)

## Community Corner

### All4Knox Initiative



The All4Knox initiative is back in action after taking a break due to the pandemic. The new strategic plan can be accessed [here](#).

UTK will have a representative on the Recovery Support team.

If anyone would like to join one of the All4Knox Implementation Teams, please contact Jennifer Tourville,

[jtourvil@utk.edu](mailto:jtourvil@utk.edu), for additional information.

### Knox County Recovery High School Program

The Knox County Recovery High School Program planning committee has resumed meetings. The August 2020 opening was postponed due to COVID, with opening now scheduled for August 2021.

The UTK Summer Advertising Campaigns course completed the marketing and branding for the program. The students did an excellent job!! The name they suggested, Elevate Academy Program, was adopted by Knox County Schools.

Shandra Forrest-Bank and Jennifer Tourville are supporting this initiative with UT One Collaboration and Innovation grant funding.

# Welcome New Members!



**Doug Coatsworth**

Professor and Associate Dean for Research, UTK College of Social Work



**Alina Cernasey**

Assistant Professor, UTHSC College of Pharmacy, Nashville Campus



**WenLin Sun**

Associate Professor, UTHSC Department of Pharmacology



**Tomorrow Arnold**

Assistant Professor, UTC Department of Psychology



**Rob Williams**

Chair of Department of Genetics, Genomics, and Informatics, UTHSC



**Patricia Roberson**

Assistant Professor, UTK College of Nursing



**Muneeza Khan**

Chair of Department of Family Medicine, UTHSC



**Ronald Cowan**

Chair of Department of Psychiatry, UTHSC

## Publications, Projects, & Grants



Jenny Crowley



Laura Miller

### Family Communication Plays Role in Addiction

Drs. Jenny Crowley and Laura Miller (School of Communication Studies) recently published an article in the Journal of Family Communication about how people with opioid use disorder perceive family relationships.

Specifically, they interviewed 41 individuals in Appalachia to understand how communication with and from family members promotes or hinders the experience of opioid use disorder (OUD).

Results reveal how feedback from family can contribute to drug usage. Extended narratives from people with OUD reveal the role of family communication in the intergenerational transmission of addiction. [Click for full article.](#)

### \$500,000 Grant Awarded to Reduce NAS

HRSA awarded a \$500,000 3-year grant was awarded to UTK (PI, Laurie Meschke of Public Health) to reduce the prevalence of neonatal abstinence syndrome in rural East Tennessee.

UTK (Public Health, Pharmacy, and Social Work) will partner with Schools Together Allowing No Drugs (STAND) of Scott County and Servolution and The Hill of Claiborne County to enhance services, resources, and education to promote behavioral health, prevent opioid use disorder, and reduce the stigma that obstructs treatment and recovery.

The primary focus audience will be adolescent girls and women of reproductive age and their families. For more information, please contact Meschke at [LLMeschke@utk.edu](mailto:LLMeschke@utk.edu)



Laurie Meschke