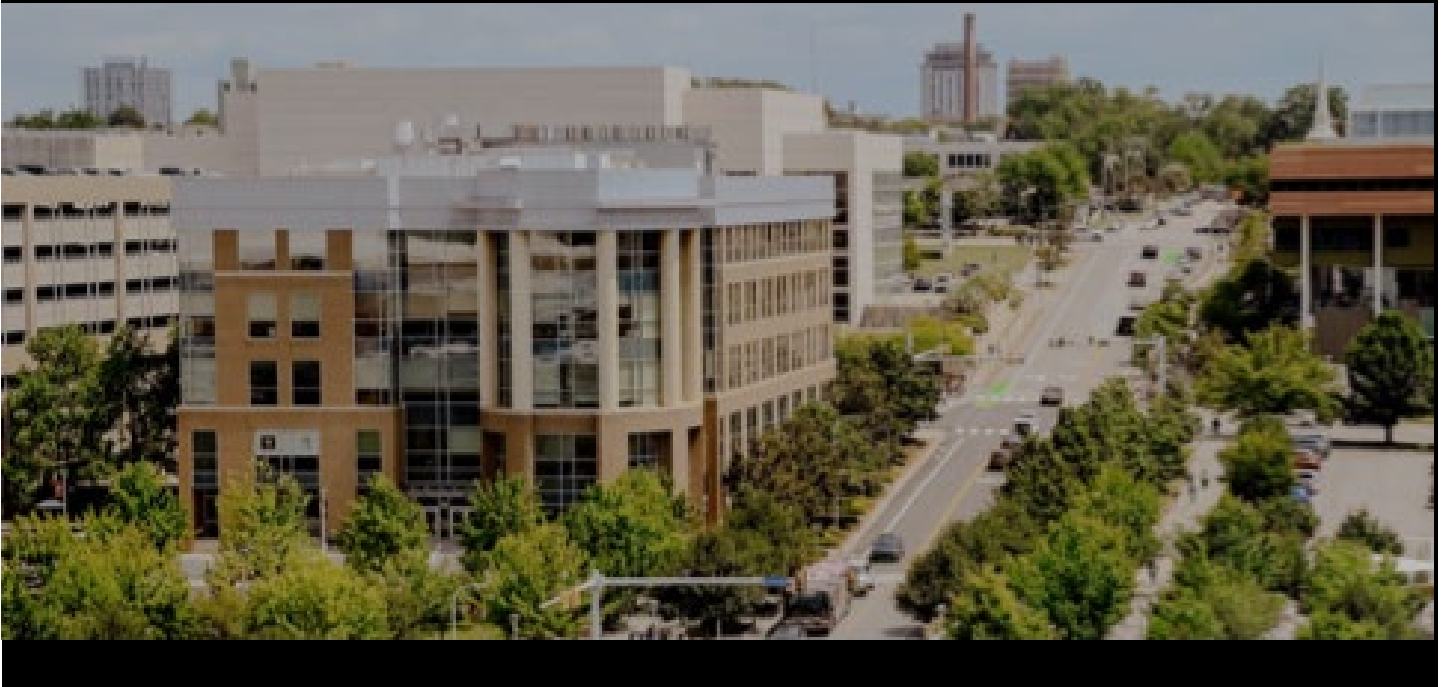


DECEMBER

2025

Research in Action.

Updates from the Arnold School Office of Research



NOTE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Dear ASPH Colleagues,

If 2025 felt a bit like a time warp for you, you're not alone. Even amidst challenges, the Arnold School remained strong and collaborative. We continued to support each other and our students in meaningful ways. I want to offer a special congratulations to our ASPH students and mentors – together you submitted 9 Magellan and 34 SPARC grant proposals in October and November (we've already heard about the Magellan awards and the Arnold School has received 6 of them!). This reflects a wonderful commitment to training, mentorship, and engagement.

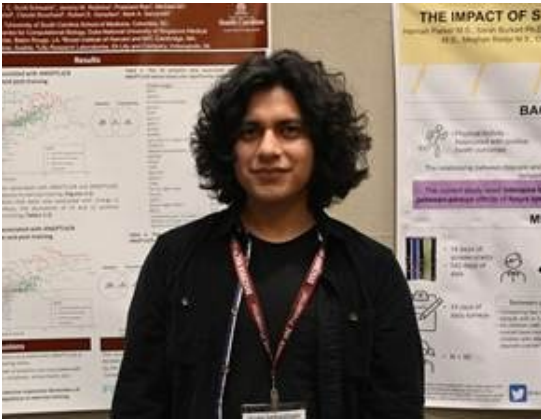
As we look to the year ahead, I encourage all of us to continue recognizing and celebrating the work happening beyond our own labs and teams. We are surrounded by people making significant impacts in public health and let's make time to learn from each other. This coming year, I invite each of you, faculty, staff, and students, to learn new things about work outside your own research area. Attend seminars and colloquia within and outside your department. Register for a conference and go to a session outside your wheelhouse. Take a moment each month to reach out to a colleague, professor, or instructor whose research intrigues you, start a conversation, and let's keep building connections across the college and beyond.



Thank you for your continued partnership. Wishing you good health and inspiration now and in the new year.

Daniela B. Friedman, PhD

New Undergraduate Student-Faculty Research Matching Survey



Undergraduate Students: Please complete this research interest **survey** if you would like to get involved with Arnold School research initiatives. Once completed, the Office of Research will check on opportunities and connect you with potential mentors.

A Collective Hedgehog Story: The Nolan Lab

The Arnold School's Nolan Lab conducts cutting-edge infectious disease testing research. Lab members share a commitment and passion for public health, continued learning and curiosity, and meaningful community impact. Dr. Nolan's leadership, shaped by her experiences growing up in rural North Georgia, provides the foundation for the team's dedication and drive. The group's collaborative approach to addressing infectious health disparities allows each member's strengths to shine.

Recently we asked the Nolan Lab team to reflect on their "why". We used the Hedgehog Model of Strategic Leadership that invites us to consider three questions: What are we deeply passionate about, What can we be the best at?, and What resources or supports sustain us?



What are we passionate about?

Across the lab, members described their commitment to improving public health, understanding ecological drivers of disease, and contributing to community outcomes. Curiosity drove their work on field ecology, environmental modeling, and mechanisms of vector borne infections. They stressed a commitment to equity and researchers' ethical responsibility to support underserved populations. They shared,

- *“My goal is to improve people’s lives in as many ways as I can.”*
- *“Working in the Nolan Lab gives me the opportunity to step outside, perform fieldwork, and learn directly from nature. I enjoy sharing this unique experience with others and explaining how our research directly impacts people’s lives in South Carolina and contributes to the state’s overall public health.”*
- *“I am passionate about understanding how environmental and ecological factors shape real-world health outcomes.”*
- *“And who is more deserving of our hard work, than those populations long forgotten and neglected - we do this for them, because their lives matter.”*

What can we be the best at?

Lab members highlighted their strengths in collaboration, creativity, technical expertise, and interdisciplinary research. Skills ranged from taxonomy and modeling to machine learning, spectroscopy, and community engagement. A recurring theme was the group’s drive, curiosity, and creative problem solving. They discussed how they used innovative approaches to address complex scientific questions. For example,

- *“My curiosity drives me to learn continuously, and I consider myself a lifelong learner. This mindset helps me adapt quickly, broaden my horizons, and stay motivated to show up every day ready to serve others and contribute to the team’s success.”*
- *“I have a rare blend of scientific knowledge, administrative insight, extensive laboratory experience, and an understanding for people doing the work.”*
- *“If my name were associated with a content area or method, it would be environmental remote sensing driven infectious disease prediction, climate-mosquito modeling, and geospatial public health intelligence informed by satellite data.”*

What sustains us?

Sustaining supports for their work included federal and state funding, strong mentorship, structured lab systems, and essential partnerships with mosquito control programs, clinicians, veterinarians, and public health agencies. When asked about the real-world impact of their work, team members expressed the work’s benefits on South Carolina communities, policymakers, and underserved populations. They described a deep sense of responsibility to ensure their work protects communities before outbreaks occur and spread.

Members also repeatedly described the lab as a supportive environment centered on shared learning, respect, trust, and clear communication.

- *“A core pillar in our research program’s success is building strong collaborations built on respect, transparency and trust. Without strong community partnerships, we would not be as successful as we are today.”*

- *“My work is sustained by collaborative partnerships, communication that flows openly, leadership trust. I thrive when I can design structures that support both people and science.”*
- *They worked toward “elevating the public health needs of those without a voice and generating creative, pragmatic strategies to mitigate the infections that afflict our society’s most vulnerable populations.”*



Together, these themes guided by the Hedgehog Model, represent a lab that is united by curiosity, collaboration, trust, and real-world impact. The team is working collectively and in partnership with communities near and far to build a healthier and more resilient future for all.

Thank you to the Nolan Lab for sharing your why and for your dedication to public health, infectious disease research, and training the next generation of scientists.

Rebranded Student Poster Content



The Arnold School Office of Research Presents the

Student Research Poster Contest

Do you have a research poster that you have presented in the past year?

Each month, an undergraduate and graduate poster will be selected and displayed outside of the Office of Research and featured in their bi-monthly newsletter. Selected students will also receive a gift card. Open to all undergraduate and graduate students within the Arnold School of Public Health.

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/3fnars5d>
Or use the QR code to upload your submission!

Logos for University of South Carolina and Arnold School 50th Anniversary (1975-2025) are also present.

Congratulations to Kathryn Cushman and Victoria Adebisi, our November 2025 ASPH Student Poster Winners. Please [click here](#) for more information about the poster contest. We look forward to showcasing research of undergraduate and graduate students and continuing with our poster contest in 2026!



ASPH Updates

Updated Faculty Mentoring Team Program guidance and the Faculty Annual Review Form with new mentorship focused questions have been distributed to all ASPH faculty members. They can also be found at [this link](#).

Boilerplate language for grant proposals is updated by the Office of Research each Fall. The updated document can be found [here](#).

CURRENT FY26 GRANT FUNDING (AS OF 12/08/25)

\$26,485,148

Center for Applied Research & Evaluation	\$495,561
Center for Community Health Alignment	\$783,064
Communication Sciences & Disorders	\$3,682,205
Environmental Health Sciences	\$2,731,863
Epidemiology & Biostatistics	\$7,236,412
Exercise Science	\$4,876,531
Health Promotion, Education, & Behavior	\$2,687,765
Health Services Policy & Management	\$3,595,953
PASOS	\$373,704
Prevention Research Center	\$22,090

ASPH Publications:

October - November 2025

View the [list of publications](#).

Congratulations to Arnold School faculty members recognized in a recent [report](#) by Stanford University and Elsevier on the world's top-cited researchers!

Upcoming ASPH Events

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Postdoctoral Fellows Meet to Discuss CV Development for Job Applications

December 18, 9:30 – 11:00 am, DISC 402

Faculty Panel on Specific Aims for NIH Grants with Foreign Component

January 13, 1:30-2:30 pm in DISC 331 or [via Zoom](#)

LEWIS-BURKE ASSOCIATES

Lewis-Burke Associates Federal Grant Update Calls for ASPH Faculty & Grants Staff

December 17, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

[Link to join by Zoom.](#)

- Meeting ID: 834 4781 3713
- Passcode: 537255

OFFICE OF RESEARCH MEETINGS

Meeting of the Research Advisory Council (RAC) & Center Directors

February 20, 2:00 – 3:30 pm

Brewing Success: Research & Coffee Meetings for ASPH Grant & Business Managers

February 13, March 13 & April 24, 9:00 –10:00 am

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

7th Annual Big Data Health Science Conference

February 12-13, 2026. Register **[HERE.](#)**

Nutrition Consortium Annual Research Symposium

February 27, 2026. Register **[HERE.](#)**

New University Resource: Foundation Directory

The Foundation Directory offers tools to identify potential grant makers and insights into their giving patterns, priorities, and award amounts. It also includes recipient profiles to benchmark peers, uncover new opportunities, and support strategic partnerships. The tools available on Foundation Directory will help find funding opportunities beyond open Requests for Proposals and may be especially valuable for those disciplines with fewer federal grants for research.

Follow this **[link](#)** to log in and start exploring:

For further assistance, please contact Amie Freeman, University Libraries:

DILLARDA@mailbox.sc.edu

Federal Grant Information



Implementing a Unified NIH Funding Strategy to Guide Consistent and Clearer Award Decisions

NIH has implemented steps towards a unified strategy that will help guide clearer and consistent funding decisions across all Institutes, Centers, and Offices (ICOs).

What Are the Differences Between Highlighted Topics and Funding Opportunities?

Please see this overview to learn how NIH Highlighted Topics differ from Notices of Funding Opportunities.

Invitation to Complete ASPH Leadership Survey

Planning for leadership development programming in our school is being guided by your input. Thank you for taking the time to complete this [brief survey](#) designed to help us understand which leadership qualities and skills you believe are most important for fostering a supportive academic environment. Your feedback will guide the program's design, including content, activities, and format. This survey is not an evaluation or a test. It is an opportunity to contribute to building a program that invests in our current and emerging leaders and strengthens our school's culture, climate, and success. Survey completion is voluntary, and all responses are anonymous. We ask that you complete the survey by Wednesday, December 17, 2025.

Sincerely,
Daniela Friedman and Pam Gillam

Additional Resources

ASPH-wide BioRender License

Please reach out to Ally Hucek if you are interested in having Biorender:

FHUCEK@EMAIL.SC.EDU

University Libraries Data Services

USC-wide Covidence License

New USC-wide ArcGIS Pro License

List of publishers with which USC has [open access agreements](#)

Photo Gallery



ASPH grant and business managers celebrate the Holidays 2025



Annual Grinch photo in the Office of Research

Arnold
School
50 *fifty*
years
1975 - 2025



Office of Research
Arnold School of Public Health

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Discovery Building, 915 Greene St, Columbia, SC 29208

[Website](#)