

New Staff at the Tobacco Dependence Program



Michelle T. Bover, MPH

Research Teaching Specialist

Michelle joined TDP in November 2006 as a part-time Research Assistant and took a full-time position in November 2007. Although born and raised a “Jersey Girl”, Michelle attended college at University of Maryland, where she earned a B.S. in Biological Sciences, specializing in physiology and neurobiology, and a minor degree in Community Health in 2005. She returned to New Jersey and received her Master of Public Health degree, with concentration in Epidemiology, in May 2007 from UMDNJ-School of Public Health, at which time she was inducted into Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health. Proficient in SAS, SPSS, Access, and Excel, Michelle embraces her role as the Program “data geek” She currently contributes to several ongoing research projects, assists with poster and presentation development, builds and maintains databases, compiles monthly, quarterly, and annual reports to the CTCP, and is responsible for the annual Clinic report and the semi-annual Program newsletter. Michelle is excited to contribute to the many TDP activities and aspires to one day earn her PhD in Epidemiology.



Amy C. Schmelzer

Training and Research Assistant

Amy Schmelzer received her bachelor's degree in Cell Biology and Neuroscience with a minor in Psychology from Rutgers University-Rutgers College. Currently, she is obtaining two Master's degrees from UMDNJ. She will graduate from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in May 2008 with a MS in Biomedical Sciences and will graduate from the School of Public Health the following year with a Masters in Public Health, concentrating in Health Education and Behavioral Science. Amy works closely with Dr. Michael Steinberg, MD, MPH on inpatient and outpatient smoking cessation trials and assists the Training and Education Department in the planning of the Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist training. After completing her graduate coursework, Amy is interested in attending medical school and will utilize the knowledge gained during her time at the Tobacco Dependence Program to encourage cessation in smoking patients.



Adejoke A. Ojo, MSW, LSW

Mental Health Clinician

Adejoke obtained a Bachelor Degree in Guidance & Counseling in 1991. She is a Licensed Social Worker, skilled in individual and family assessment. She completed the Tobacco Dependence Treatment Specialist training in February, 2005. She received her Master in Social Work from Rutgers University, School of Social Work in May, 2006.

Adejoke first came to the Tobacco Dependence Program in September, 2004, as an intern. During that time, Adejoke demonstrated excellent social work skills and great interpersonal relationship with her clients, staff and other professionals. She returned to the program as a part time clinician in August, 2007, due to her interest in addiction and tobacco treatment. Adejoke has brought with her several years of experience as a seasoned social worker with concentration in Children and Families. She has prior working experience in Public Social Services with the City of New York and state of New Jersey. She is interested in issues related to cultural and language diversity.

First Impressions

My experience as a first year Master of Social Work intern at the Tobacco Dependence Program has been wonderful thus far. I have learned a lot about tobacco dependence, its importance, and how it impacts health, and working with an exceptional staff has benefited my understanding of evidence-based treatment. I have had the privilege of working with both treatment groups and schools and have had the opportunity to advocate for the clinic on multiple occasions. Finally, the friendly environment at TDP has me looking forward to each day I spend there. I could not possibly ask for a better field placement, and I am excited to experience what the future brings!

Lisa Giacomiazio, B.A., MSW Candidate

I am impressed with how clients continue to come back for treatment at the TDP even if they relapsed. The overall feedback I get from the clients I have seen is that the service they received was either very good or excellent, and the TDP clearly has an excellent reputation in the larger community.

Kurt Bopp, B.A., MSW Candidate