SRNT HEALTH EQUITY NETWORK

Issue #3, 2026

SRNT Health Equity Network members,

Welcome to the third issue of the 2026 HEN Newsletter!

As the network continues to grow and evolve, so too does this newsletter. Our hope is to make it the central hub where members can be informed, discover new research, and connect with the people and initiatives shaping our network.

To continue to make the newsletter valuable to you, we encourage you to share announcements, opportunities, and other information with us through this **link**. Your contributions help ensure that the newsletter reflects the breadth and vibrancy of our network.

Starting with this issue, we want to introduce you to the sub-committees and workgroups that help make the HEN network a vibrant and productive part of SRNT. We look forward to introducing you to the people driving this work. Until our next issue in August, enjoy summer and stay connected with HEN on LinkedIn and Bluesky.



SRNT 2027 planning has begun! Abstract submission system is open as of 6/15/26 and will close on 7/31/26. Click here to access the 2027 Abstract Information and Submission Portal.

SRNT is also recruiting Program Committee Members and Abstract Reviewers! Click here to apply to volunteer.

Other important dates:

- *Abstract review dates: 8/10/26-9/11/26*
- *Acceptance letters released mid-Nov 2026*
- *Rapid submissions open December 2026*

Celebrating Bruce Wheeler's Retirement

For many SRNT members, Bruce and SRNT are nearly inseparable. It is hard to imagine the Society without him. Please join us in celebrating and thanking Bruce for his years of dedicated service and many contributions to SRNT. As the SRNT President wrote, "His positive attitude, strategic insight, creativity, humor, professionalism, and diplomacy have left a legacy for which we are deeply grateful."
Best wishes for a happy retirement Bruce!

CLICK TO VIEW AND SHARE YOUR WELL WISHES ON BRUCE'S KUDOBOARD!

Hot off the Press!

Discrimination experiences are associated with same-day and next-day smoking among adults with low socio-economic status trying to quit: A secondary analysis of data from a randomized clinical trial

Laili K. Boozary, Meng Chen, Summer G. Frank-Pearce, Emily T. Hébert, Sixia Chen, Adam C. Alexander, Motolani E. Ogunsanya, Munjireen S. Sifat, Jason A. Oliver, Michael S. Businelle, Darla E. Kendzor



Introduction

- Research indicates that experiencing discrimination may be associated with a return to smoking following a quit attempt. The current study aimed to characterize day-to-day relations between discrimination and smoking in the context of a smoking cessation trial for adults with socio-economic disadvantage

Methods

- Secondary analysis of data from a randomized controlled trial, which used a parallel 2-group design (unblinded). Eligible participants (adults with socio-economic disadvantage) were randomly assigned to usual care (UC) for smoking cessation (counseling and pharmacotherapy) or UC plus financial incentives contingent on biochemically verified abstinence.
- All participants were asked to complete daily smartphone assessments over the first 28 days following a scheduled quit attempt.

Health Equity Related Findings

- Overall, 62 participants (22.4%) reported 212 instances of discrimination over the SAP. Discrimination was statistically significantly associated with lower odds of sameday and next-day abstinence, and any discrimination during the SAP was statistically significantly associated with lower odds of abstinence across follow-ups.
- Experience of discrimination appears to adversely impact smoking cessation among adults with socio-economic disadvantage who are trying to quit smoking and warrants attention in cessation interventions.

Discrimination experiences are associated with same-day and next-day smoking among adults with low socio-economic status trying to quit: A secondary analysis of data from a randomized clinical trial. Boozary LK, Chen M, Frank-Pearce SG, Hébert ET, Chen S, Alexander AC, Ogunsanya ME, Sifat MS, Oliver JA, Businelle MS, Kendzor DE. Addiction. 2026 Apr.

Psychosocial interventions for supporting women to stop smoking in pregnancy

Ilsabella Freijah, Kimberley A Jones, Tim Coleman, Susan M Perlen, Michelle Kennedy, Megan E Passey, Joanne E McKensize, Cathertine Chamberlain



Introduction

- Tobacco smoking is a leading preventable cause of pregnancy complications with serious long-term impacts on women and babies.
- The objective is to assess the effects of psychosocial interventions provided to support pregnant women who are currently smoking or have recently quit, on smoking abstinence, continued postpartum abstinence, and infant outcomes.

Methods

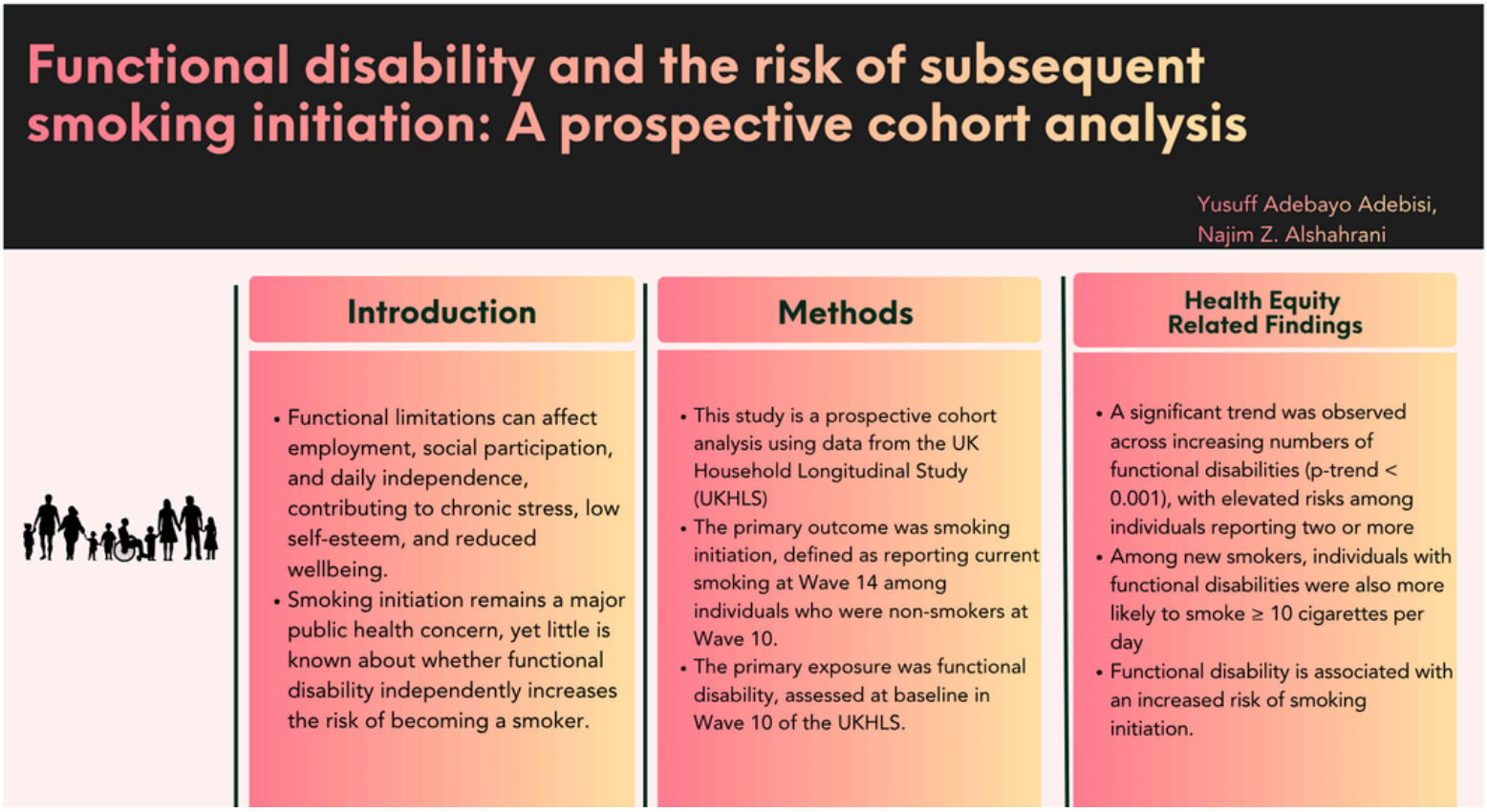
- We included randomized controlled trials, cluster-randomized trials, and quasi-randomized controlled trials in pregnant women who smoked cigarettes or have recently quit, comparing psychosocial interventions (counseling, health education, feedback, social support, incentives, exercise) with usual care, less intensive interventions, or alternative interventions.
- The critical outcome was self-reported and/or biochemically validated smoking abstinence in late pregnancy.

Health Equity Related Findings

- Counseling and financial incentives probably support women to stop smoking, while health education, feedback, and social support may support women to stop smoking in late pregnancy, by an amount likely to be important. Psychosocial interventions may also reduce the proportion of infants born with low birthweight, increase mean birthweight, and reduce the number of infants admitted to NICU. These findings were not evident in ethnic minority or Indigenous populations.

Psychosocial interventions for supporting women to stop smoking in pregnancy. Freijah I, Jones KA, Coleman T, Perlen SM, Kennedy M, Passey ME, McKenzie JE, Chamberlain C. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2026 Apr

Hot off the Press!



Functional disability and the risk of subsequent smoking initiation: A prospective cohort analysis. Adebisi YA, Alshahrani NZ. Addict Behav. 2026 Apr.

Recent Equity-Related Publications

1. Associations between county-level e-cigarette-inclusive Tobacco 21 law population coverage and e-cigarette use behaviors among United States adolescents in Monitoring the Future. Buszkiewicz JH, Vander Woude CA, Xie Y, Cook S, Peters BU, Patrick ME, Elliott MR, Thrasher JF, Fleischer NL. Addiction. 2026 Apr
2. Substance use disorders and related hospitalizations and mortality among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men: A matched cohort study. Aguilera-Mijares S, Wang L, Trigg J, Hogg RS, Lachowsky N, Gormezano A, Sereda P, Card K, Oviedo-Joekes E, Emerson SD, Lal A, Budu M, Hart TA, Cox J, Grace D, Tan DHS, Moore DM. Drug Alcohol Depend. 2026 Jun.
3. The Manifestation of Structural Oppression Through Racial Trauma: Implications for Substance Use Among Black Adults. Brown DG, Johal PK, Bauer AG, Saraiya TC.J Psychoactive Drugs. 2026 Apr.
4. Understanding Substance Use in Alaska Native Youth- A Social Network Perspective. Mason M, Schultz K, Zhang S, Ivanich JD.BMC Public Health. 2026 May 9.
5. A Longitudinal Analysis of E-Cigarette Initiation Predicted by Peer Use Among U.S. Youth and Young Adults by Sexual and Gender Minority Identity, 2021–2023. Kierstead, E. C., Sarvis, K., McKay, T., & Kreslake, J. M. Subst Use & Misuse. 2026. Jun.
6. Money Helps: Financial Incentives for Smoking Cessation Among People Experiencing Homelessness. Gu, D., Cuby, J., Gomez, O., Mark, H., Hall, S., Stitzer, M., … Vijayaraghavan, M. Subst Use & Misuse. 2026 Jun.

Meet The Sub-Commitee: Scholarship & Development

Our subcommittee focuses on career development of Health Equity Scholars. We have two main initiatives: the **It's Just Coffee** mentoring program, and the **Health Equity Travel Scholarships**.

Members
Mariel Bello
Sandra Japuntich
Dina Jones
Chase Kornacki
Jiaxi Wu

- We raised over $40,000 for travel scholarships for SRNT Baltimore
- Funded conference scholarships for 22 early-career scholars & 4 LMIC scholars
- 15 Mentor-mentee matches in the It's Just Coffee Program

Sub-Committee Highlights

Fundraiser for the 2027 Health Equity Travel Scholarships kicks off in June 2026. If you are an **early career investigator (postdoc or junior faculty)** who is hoping to present health equity work at the conference, **look out for a call for applications in July.**



If you belong to a cancer center or a tobacco prevention-related non-profit, or your your organization could support scholarships, consider requesting funds to support the cause. **If your organization is willing to donate**, contact Sandra Japuntich (sjapunti@umn.edu).

It's Just Coffee! Mentor-Mentee Highlight



MENTOR
Shyanika Rose, PhD
Associate Professor and Acting Director,
Center for Health, Engagement, and Transformation
University of Kentucky
Louisville, Kentucky

MENTEE
Akshika Sharma, PhD
Post-Doctoral Associate
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut



The It's Just Coffee! (IJC) mentoring program continues to foster networking and career development among members. We highlight excerpts from a recent mentor-mentee pair. Full interview posted on SRNT HEN Member Page and LinkedIn.

Question: How has the IJC mentorship program contributed to your professional growth?

Akshika: *Over the past three years as a postdoctoral associate, I have developed meaningful professional connections with several mentors through IJC. Each mentor has offered valuable guidance that has shaped my professional journey, including insights into key considerations in research and academia, common challenges and strategies for navigating them, preparation for job interviews, and crafting an effective elevator pitch. I have benefited from this advice both professionally and personally, and I have maintained ongoing relationships with my mentors, resulting in strong and lasting professional connections.*
Shyanika: *The IJC program has helped me to sharpen my mentoring skills and allowed me to meet trainees from other institutions that are engaged in similar work. In fact, I highlighted one of the mentoring relationships started through IJC in my tenure and promotion materials.*

Question: **What advice would you give to someone considering seeking a mentor or volunteering as a mentor for the IJC program?**

Akshika*: Meeting a senior and renowned researcher for the first time can feel intimidating; however, in my experience, most mentors are highly welcoming and supportive of mentees and early-career professionals. Initiatives such as the IJC provide an excellent entry point by thoughtfully matching mentees with suitable mentors.*
Shyanika*: Just do it! It's a small time commitment, and you need coffee anyway! Everyone has something to offer. Even if you are early in your career, someone else was in your shoes just a few years ago and wants to learn from your experience.*

Be on the look out for the next It's Just Coffee program call!