

# PREVENTION SCIENCE

Graduate Programs Newsletter

Fall 2023, Vol 4, Issue 1

## NEW PREVENTION SCIENCE PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Welcome to Heather Leonard, PhD, the new Program Director for the Prevention Science program. Heather was recently hired as a Lecturer in the Department of Counseling Psychology and Human Services where she teaches in the FHS undergraduate program and Prevention Science graduate program. She is also serving as advisor to the 2023-2024 MED students in the Prevention Science program. Heather welcomes the opportunity to connect with previous program alumni and PrevSci community members—feel free to reach out anytime ([hleonar3@uoregon.edu](mailto:hleonar3@uoregon.edu)). Welcome Heather!

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

UO Onward: Strategic Engagement - The University of Oregon community has been invited to participate in the institutional priority setting process called **UO Onward**. Community members are encouraged to contribute their ideas and feedback around three cornerstone priorities:

- Student learning and achievement
- Elevating our outstanding scholarship and service
- Campus belonging

To participate in this special Fall 2023 survey, go to <https://onward.uoregon.edu/participate>

## ALUM SPOTLIGHT

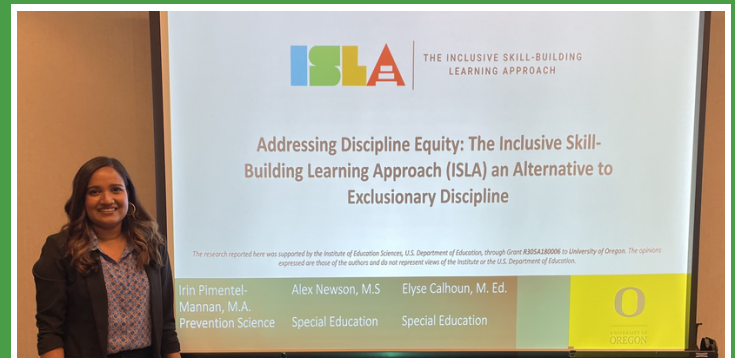
Joanna Wright recently joined the Early Childhood Services Research Program at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health as a Program Officer. She leads data management and continuous quality improvement support for a new universal post-natal home visiting program in New Jersey. Joanna graduated with her PhD in Prevention Science in summer term, 2023, and would welcome hearing from anyone in the field who is interested in reaching out ([jwrig124@jh.edu](mailto:jwrig124@jh.edu)). Congrats Joanna on your graduation and new position!



## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

**Irin Mannan:** Irin Mannan, doctoral candidate in Prevention Science, just published a paper:

Pimentel-Mannan, I. A., Nese, J. F. T., Newson, A., Kjellstrand, J., & Nese, R. N. T. (2023). Addressing discipline equity: The Inclusive Skill-Building Learning Approach (ISLA) an alternative to exclusionary discipline. *Preventing School Failure: Alternative Education for Children and Youth*, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1045988X.2023.2252761>



In more good news, Irin has accepted a postdoctoral research position at the Oregon Research Institute (ORI). She will be working with Drs. Erika Westling and Ed Feil to develop a school-based digital adolescent oral health promotion program for the reduction of oral health disparities in middle schools. The program will focus on preventing adolescent vaping as well as reducing consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and was funded by the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. Irin has already started her work at ORI and will go full time after her dissertation defense in December. Good luck Irin in your new position!

**Esmeralda Castro:** Esme presented a project at the Western Society for Physical Education of College Women this month where she was also recognized for the President's Educational Equity Scholarship! The project was on psychometric testing of a widely used physical literacy measure and the association between physical literacy and children's emotional and behavioral health. The scholarship "recognizes the special needs of women of color who are working toward professional careers in kinesiology and encourage ethnic diversity among women in kinesiology". Esme recently completed her certification as an exercise physiologist by the American College of Sports Medicine – the gold standard for certification. Congrats Esme!

