

William I. Fisher, PhD

Background

I joined the training program in Cardiovascular Epidemiology after receiving a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from Baylor University with an emphasis in Health Psychology. Previously, I had completed a Master's degree in Health Psychology from Texas State University, with an emphasis in clinical psychology. Prior to psychology, I completed a degree in the culinary arts, worked as a chef, and served in Operation Desert Shield/Storm aboard a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier in the United States Navy.

Areas of Interest

I am interested in the study of the etiology, physiology, sequelae, measurement and management of hot flashes and their relationship to CVD. Recently, Dr. Thurston and colleagues have examined the relationship of hot flashes to cardiac vagal control as a potentially important link to CVD. I hope to collaborate on and extend this important research.

The Program

As I complete this, I am still quite new to the program, but in working with my mentors and peers on my training goals, I look forward to an extremely collaborative and dynamic program. I will be expanding on my understanding of cardiovascular physiology, psychophysiology and epidemiology through didactic coursework, collaborating on ongoing research examining hot flashes and subclinical measures of CVD, and making grant applications towards a pilot study of a behavioral intervention of hot flashes, specifically examining sub-clinical measures of CVD and their relationship to hot flashes and hot flash treatment. In addition, I plan to author several first-author publications during my time in the program- I am currently collaborating with my mentor on an invited book chapter.

Future Plans

It is my intention to continue my research in a tenure-track position as an assistant professor.

Advice to Prospective Students

Again, I am quite new to the program, but my experience to-date suggests that there is a wealth of knowledge and experience at the University of Pittsburgh, and there is genuine enthusiasm in sharing. Take full advantage while you can!