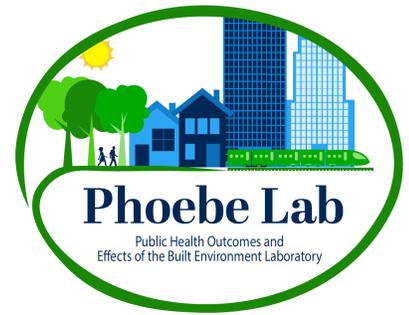


Jennifer D. Roberts, DrPH, MPH  
Assistant Professor | Physical Cultural Studies Research Group  
Director | Public Health Outcomes and Effects of the Built Environment Laboratory  
Co-Director | NatureRx@UMD  
Department of Kinesiology | School of Public Health | University of Maryland  
SPH Building #255 | 4200 Valley Drive | College Park | Maryland | 20742-2611



Office: SPH 2136 | PHOEBE Lab: SPH 1304A  
Phone: 301.405.7748 | Fax: 301.405.5578 | Email: [jenrob@umd.edu](mailto:jenrob@umd.edu)

Websites:

Professional - [www.jenniferdeniseroberts.com](http://www.jenniferdeniseroberts.com)  
UMD Profile - [www.sph.umd.edu/people/jennifer-d-roberts](http://www.sph.umd.edu/people/jennifer-d-roberts)  
Risk and Social Policy Group - <https://www.riskandsocialpolicy.org>  
PHOEBE Laboratory - [www.sph.umd.edu/phoebelab](http://www.sph.umd.edu/phoebelab)  
NatureRx@UMD - [go.umd.edu/naturerx](http://go.umd.edu/naturerx)  
Physical Cultural Studies - [www.umdpcs.org](http://www.umdpcs.org)  
Twitter - [@ActiveRoberts](https://twitter.com/ActiveRoberts)  
LinkedIn - <http://linkedin.com/in/jenniferroberts1974>



Jennifer D. Roberts is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Kinesiology, School of Public Health at the University of Maryland College Park (UMD). Dr. Roberts is also the Founder and Director of the Public Health Outcomes and Effects of the Built Environment (PHOEBE) Laboratory as well as the Co-Founder and Co-Director of NatureRx@UMD, an initiative that emphasizes the natural environmental benefits interspersed throughout and around the UMD campus. Her scholarship focuses on the impact of built, social, and natural environments, including the institutional and structural inequities of these environments, on the public health outcomes of marginalized communities. More specifically, much of her research has explored the dynamic relationship between environmental, social, and cultural determinants of physical activity and using empirical evidence of this relationship to infer complex health outcome patterns and disparities among adults and children.

PHOEBE Laboratory research, such as the *Built Environment and Active Play (BEAP)* and *Physical Environment and Active Transportation (PEAT) Studies*, have incorporated state of the art techniques including spatial analysis and geographic information system modeling in order to objectively capture the role and relationship of physical activity determinants. While relying heavily on mixed methodology, crosscutting health issues, along with exposure (e.g. transit deserts) and outcome (e.g. obesity) disparities, have also been addressed in her physical activity and public health research program. Presently, Dr. Roberts' is leading the *Purple Line Light Rail Impact on Neighborhood, Health and Transit (PLIGHT) Study* in order to investigate changes in light rail use, active transportation, overall physical activity, obesity and obesity related cardiovascular risks among Prince George's County, Maryland adults, a population comprised of over 80% African American and Hispanic residents who are predominately obese or overweight. In a prospective pre-post, case-comparison design, the PLIGHT Study will also explore how contextual effects (e.g., "sense of community") moderate these health outcome changes with the intended 2022 introduction of this new 16.1-mile light rail line.

Dr. Roberts' was awarded a JPB Environmental Health Fellowship by Harvard University's T.H. Chan School of Public Health. This three-year fellowship will support her forthcoming research study, *Gauging Effects of Neighborhood Trends and Sickness (GENTS) Study: Examining the Perceptions of Transit-Induced Gentrification in Prince George's County*. GENTS will examine the risk of transit-induced gentrification and the associated health effects (e.g., anxiety) as related to the aforementioned Purple Line light rail. While the introduction of light rail in communities often encourages physical activity by way of active transportation, gentrification is often an unintended consequence and socioeconomic by-product of these types of transit-oriented developments.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Dr. Roberts' graduated from Buffalo Seminary High School and received her Bachelor of Arts (AB) degree from Brown University. She holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from Emory University Rollins School of Public Health and earned her Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) degree from Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Roberts' has received research and professional development grants from the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as well as intramural grants from UMD. She was invited to be a Visiting Researcher at the University of Otago School of Physical Education, Sport, and Exercise Sciences in Dunedin, New Zealand where she spent a month collaborating with international researchers.