

Taking Texas Tobacco Free (TTTF) is funded by the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) and seeks to promote wellness among Texans by partnering with healthcare organizations to build capacity for system-wide, sustainable initiatives that will reduce tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure among employees, patients, and visitors. TTTF includes an academic-community partnership between the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, the University of Houston, and Integral Care of Austin.

TTTF's Impact to Date Across the State



TTTF Move to The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Most of the TTTF academic team recently moved institutions and are now at [The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center](#) in the [Department of Health Disparities Research](#). This transition marks an exciting new chapter for our program as we work toward reducing tobacco use and minimizing secondhand smoke exposure.

Expansion of TTTF through Latest Grant Award

Drs. Lorraine Reitzel (TTTF Professor) and Maggie Britton (TTTF Assistant Professor) were recently awarded a 2-year grant from the [Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas](#) to expand the TTTF program through a project titled, “Taking Texas Tobacco Free: Dissemination to and Implementation within Lung Cancer Screening Programs.” This project extends the TTTF mission of preventing cancers among Texans by collaborating with lung cancer screening centers to build capacity for tobacco use and relapse prevention interventions. Through this work, we strive to prevent lung cancer and other tobacco-related cancers, as well as enhance survival rates among individuals recovering from lung cancer treatment. For more information about the project, or if you are a lung cancer screening site interested in partnering, please contact Hector Sanchez (TTTF Sr. Health Education Specialist) at HSanchez1@mdanderson.org.

TTTF Partners with Hungry Hill Foundation

[Hungry Hill Foundation \(HHF\)](#) is an Austin-based agency that aims to address long-term homelessness. HHF has developed a multi-tiered work/apprenticeship program that supports individuals on their re-entry journey from unemployed to self-sufficiency. In addition to helping individuals acquire employment, HHF also offers comprehensive support services, including access to mental health counseling, addiction recovery assistance, financial literacy training, and housing resources. In January 2023, HHF implemented a tobacco-free environment and, with the support of TTTF, designed and posted refreshed signage to ensure clear communication of the policy, prohibiting all forms of tobacco use. We look forward to HHF’s continued commitment to supporting their Austin residents!



TTTF Team Updates

Hector Sanchez (Sr. Health Education Specialist) earned his B.S. in Public Health from Sam Houston State University in 2017 and his MPH from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston in 2022. Hector worked as an Emergency Medical Technician for over 5 years where he observed first-hand the impact of social determinants of health in underserved communities, which influenced his decision to seek a profession that would allow him to provide health education, connection to resources, and ultimately help reduce or eliminate health disparities. Hector has experience in community outreach and engagement, public speaking, and cancer prevention research. He will assist with building/maintaining key stakeholder relationships, program development/delivery, and qualitative data collection and interpretation for ongoing TTTF projects, advancing TTTF's mission to reduce tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure among Texans.



Rosie Vidauri (TTTF Program Manager) brings nearly 20 years of experience at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in administration, along with extensive institutional knowledge on processes and procedures. In her new role, Rosie will be assisting with the coordination and execution of several ongoing projects to advance TTTF's mission to reduce tobacco use among Texans.



TTTF Team Accolades

Wishing the Best of Luck to Long-Time TTTF Staff Brian Carter and Midhat Jafry as They Head to Medical School!

Brian Carter (former TTTF Program Manager) will be attending [Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine](#) starting late July 2023. He is excited to leverage his tobacco-related research experience to promote cancer prevention throughout his medical training and career. Brian hopes to continue conducting health equity research through Feinberg's [Center for Health Equity Transformation](#). Outside of school, he is excited to meet new people, explore all that Chicago has to offer, and find the warmest winter coat. Brian is grateful for the mentorship and friendship of the TTTF team in helping him to reach this point of his career.



Midhat Jafry (former TTTF Research Data Coordinator) will be attending [John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Medical School at UTHealth](#) in the Fall. Working with the TTTF team has profoundly fostered her interest in preventive medicine and she hopes to build upon these research experiences to work toward addressing health inequities in her future career. As an incoming medical student, she is excited for the opportunity to forge new connections, create lasting memories, and embrace the transformative experiences that lie ahead. She is deeply thankful for the privilege and opportunity of working with the TTTF team and for the support she has received through her mentors and friends.



Congratulations to TTTF on their latest publications!

Dr. Maggie Britton (TTTF Assistant Professor) had her first authored [article](#) titled “Lung Cancer Screening Eligibility and Referral Practices in Texas Organizations Serving People with Substance Use Disorders” recently published in *Cancers*.

Brian Carter (Former TTTF Program Manager) published his first authored [article](#) titled “Educating Substance Use Treatment Center Providers on Tobacco Use Treatments Is Associated with Increased Provision of Counseling and Medication to Patients Who Use Tobacco” in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.

Ammar Siddiqi (TTTF Student Extern) had his first authored [article](#) titled “Changes in Substance Use Treatment Providers’ Delivery of the 5A’s for Non-Cigarette Tobacco Use in the Context of a Comprehensive Tobacco-Free Workplace Program Implementation” published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.

Cassidy LoParco (Postdoctoral Fellow at [George Washington University’s Milken Institute School of Public Health](#)) published her first authored [article](#) titled “Organization-Level Factors Associated with Changes in the Delivery of the Five A’s for Smoking Cessation following the Implementation of a Comprehensive Tobacco-Free Workplace Program within Substance Use Treatment Centers” published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.

Paid Research Studies Recruiting Participants

For people who smoke cigarettes, little cigars and/or cigarillos and want to quit:

The **AACR EEG Study** seeks to understand the brain processes underlying smoking and cessation in current daily smokers who want to quit. See additional relevant information below:

- Recruiting current daily smokers in the Houston metro area.
- Compensation: \$125, including reimbursement for parking or metro expenses (up to \$12).
- Eligible participants will undergo brain scans (i.e., EEG scans) and complete relevant questionnaires during an in-person lab visit.
- If interested, call **713-794-3777** today.

The **PISCES Study** aims to develop personalized approaches to quitting smoking. See additional relevant information below:

- Recruiting smokers across Texas for virtual participation in the comfort of their own home.
- Compensation: up to \$423.
- Eligible participants receive a study phone to use throughout the study and keep once participation is complete, free smoking cessation medication, and access to cessation resources.
- If interested, call **713-792-2265** or visit [nicotinestudy.com](https://www.nicotinestudy.com) today.



For people who smoke and are interested in transitioning to e-cigarettes:

The **ASCEND Study** aims to understand potential gender differences when transitioning from combustible cigarettes to electronic cigarettes. See additional relevant information below:

- Recruiting smokers aged 21+ across Texas for virtual participation in the comfort of their own home.
- Compensation: up to \$522.
- Eligible participants receive an e-cigarette device and pods to use throughout the study.
- If interested, call Ashley at **832-729-2811** or visit [nicotinestudy.com](https://www.nicotinestudy.com) today.

The **BREATHe Study** looks at the effects of transitioning from traditional cigarettes to electronic cigarettes among older adult smokers who are not yet ready to quit. See additional relevant information below:

- Recruiting smokers aged 50+ interested in trying electronic cigarettes.
- Compensation: up to \$392.
- Eligible participants will be asked to either vape a study-provided e-cigarette or smoke their usual brand tobacco product throughout the study.
- All appointments will be conducted virtually in the comfort of their own home beginning July 2023 and is open to residents of Texas.
- If interested, call Frank at **832-803-5855** or visit [nicotinestudy.com](https://www.nicotinestudy.com) today.

For people who smoke or people who do not smoke:

Project **Renewal** seeks to understand how the brain responds to images that are related to behaviors like smoking and eating in smokers and non-smokers. Requires 2 in-person study visits. See additional relevant information below:

- Recruiting current daily smokers and non-smokers in the Houston metro area.
- Compensation: \$150 for visit 1 and \$200 for visit 2, including reimbursement for parking or metro expenses (up to \$12 per visit).
- Eligible participants will undergo brain scans (i.e., EEG scans), complete a delay task and relevant questionnaires during each visit.
- If interested, call **713-794-3777**.



Research volunteers wanted for a brain imaging study

- Are you 18-65 years old?
- Can you get an MRI scan? *(no pacemakers or metallic implants allowed)*
- Do you want to participate in research?

There is no cost to you.
The study is safe and non-invasive. If eligible, you will be compensated for your time.

For more information, call **713-794-3777**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MDAnderson
Cancer Center
Making Cancer History™

The advertisement features two brain scan images: a colorful functional scan on the left and a grayscale structural MRI scan on the right.

Project **Brain Connectivity** seeks to learn about the differences in how the brains of smokers and non-smokers respond to various images, including smoking-related images. See additional relevant information below:

- Recruiting current daily smokers and non-smokers in the Houston metro area.
- Compensation: \$120, including reimbursement for metro expenses (up to \$10). Free parking is available.
- Eligible participants will undergo brain scans (i.e., brain MRI), and complete relevant questionnaires during in-person clinic visit.
- If interested, call **713-794-3777**.



Research volunteers wanted for a brain imaging study

Are you 21 years or older?
Do you smoke cigarettes?
Do you want to participate in research?
You can help MD Anderson learn more about how the brain responds to images.

- There is no cost to you.
- The study is safe and non-invasive.
- Participants will be compensated for their time.

For more information, call: **713-794-3777**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MDAnderson
Cancer Center
Making Cancer History™

The advertisement features a stylized brain scan image with a white outline of a head and a blue and yellow wave pattern above it.

The **Smoking and Microaggressions** study aims to examine the impact of microaggressions on cigarette smoking behavior in Hispanic/Latino adults. See additional relevant information below:

- Recruiting current daily smokers aged 18+ in the Houston metro area.
- Compensation: \$200 in electronic gift cards, including reimbursement for metro expenses (up to \$2.50). Free parking is available.
- Eligible participants will attend a total of three in-person appointments: one baseline assessment appointment and two experimental appointments.
- Appointments conducted in English and Spanish.
- If interested, call the RESTORE lab at **713-743-8056**.

SMOKING AND MICROAGGRESSIONS STUDY 

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON RESTORE Laboratory

YOU MAY QUALIFY TO PARTICIPATE IF YOU....

Are at least 18 years old	Have experienced a microaggression	Are Latino or Latina	Currently smoke 5 or more cigarettes per day	Report cigarette smoking for 1 year
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SCAN ME  **Earn up to \$200 in electronic gift cards**

to be screened for our study!

Study participation requires about 8 hours of your time

For more information, contact our lab!
(713) 743-8056 (mention Study 84 when you call)
restorestudy84@gmail.com

THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD

For youth and young adults who use e-cigarettes:

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center is proud to partner with the Truth Initiative to offer [This is Quitting \(TIQ\)](#) for free to any youth or young adult serving agency. See additional relevant information below:

- Texas youth and young adults ages 13-24 who use e-cigarettes or vape can get free confidential help to quit, by texting VAPEFREEXTX to 88709.
- Any entity can [contact us to receive free promotional materials or social media materials for the TIQ program.](#)

NEED HELP QUITTING VAPING?

TRY THIS IS QUITTING A FREE TEXT-TO-QUIT PROGRAM
TEXT VAPEFREEXTX TO 88709

 **THIS IS QUITTING**

For Black adults who smoke cigarettes:

Project **BREATHE** is committed to improving services related to lung health for Black adults in Texas. See additional relevant information below:

- Recruiting Black and African American adults in Texas who currently or previously smoked cigarettes.
- Scan the QR code on the flyer to see if you are eligible for the study.
- Compensation: \$40 e-gift card from Walmart, Amazon, or H-E-B.
- If interested, email Dr. Martinez Leal (BLEal@mdanderson.org) or call **713-794-3777**.

Do you smoke or have you smoked in the past?

We want to ensure that your voice is heard in healthcare.

Project BREATHE is a research study committed to improving services related to lung health for Black adults living in Texas who receive care from certain healthcare centers.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Black and African American individuals living in Texas
- Ages 18 and older
- Has smoked or used to smoke cigarettes

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

Share your ideas through:

- a 15-minute survey
- a 45- to 60-minute individual or group interview

IS THERE COMPENSATION?

Choose a \$40 e-gift card from Walmart, Amazon, or H-E-B if you complete the survey and interview.

QUESTIONS?

Contact the research team and mention Project BREATHE!

EMAIL BLEal@mdanderson.org

PHONE 364 834 8010

INTERESTED?

Take a quick survey to find out if you qualify.



HEALTH
NIMHD – RCMI

MO00005094 Health and Cancer Prevention
UH IRB Approved


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For Federally Qualified Health Center employees:

Project **BREATHE** aims to learn about how Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in Texas deliver tobacco use and lung cancer screening services. See additional relevant information below:

- Recruiting four Texas FQHCs to partner on the project.
- Compensation: \$40 e-gift card from Walmart, Amazon, Target, Starbucks, or H-E-B.
- If interested, email Dr. Maggie Britton (MBritton@mdanderson.org).

Project BREATHE is partnering with four Texas FQHCs to learn about how they deliver tobacco use and lung cancer screening services!

WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION INCLUDE?

- 1 executive leader completes a survey (~10-15 minutes) and an interview (~30 to 45 minutes)
- 3-5 providers of tobacco or lung cancer screening services (e.g., medical assistant, nurse, physician assistant, physician) complete a survey (~15-20 minutes) and an individual or group interview (~45 to 60 minutes)
 - We will provide leadership with a flyer to send to employees.

WHAT WILL YOU RECEIVE FOR PARTICIPATING?

- Each participant will receive a \$40 e-gift card to Walmart, Amazon, Target, Starbucks, or H-E-B.
- We will share all developed materials (e.g., provider trainings, health promotion and patient education materials; example attached) with each partner healthcare center, free of charge.
- We will share tailored recommendations to enhance tobacco and lung cancer services to prevent related health disparities for Black and African American patients.
- We can share bi-monthly lists of tobacco-related trainings (often with free continuing education/medical credits offered).

FUNDER/PROJECT SUPPORT:

The work is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and supported by [Taking Texas Tobacco Free](http://TakingTexasTobaccoFree.org), which has been working with various Texas healthcare centers since 2013 to build their capacity for tobacco dependence screening and treatment.

INTERESTED?

Contact Dr. Maggie Britton at MBritton@mdanderson.org and mention Project BREATHE.

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