

Melissa A. Elafros, MA

Position:

Michigan State University (MSU)
MD/PhD Candidate-College of Human Medicine Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Fellow-International Neurologic & Psychiatric Epidemiology Program (INPEP)

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Education:

2008-current MSU College of Human Medicine-MD/PhD Candidate (Epidemiology)
Dissertation: *HIV-positive with epilepsy: the psychosocial and medical intersection of two chronic conditions in Zambia*

2006-2008 MSU College of Human Medicine-M.A. (Bioethics, Humanities & Society)
Thesis: *A Michigan State University Extension Study of Health Utilization Patterns and Health Concerns of Michigan Latinos*

2004-2008 MSU Lyman Briggs School, Honors College-B.S. (Human Biology) with High Honors

2004-2008 MSU College of Arts and Letters, Honors College-B.A. (Spanish) with High Honors

2005 Universidad Menéndez Pelayo Santander, Spain-Study Abroad (Spanish)

Honors and Awards:

2012 NIH Institute on Systems Science and Health Participant

2012 AMSA Poster Session, 2nd place Epidemiology and Translational Sciences

2012 AMSA Pharmaceutical Policy Leadership Institute Participant

2008 MSU Class Council Outstanding Senior Award

2008 MSU Honors College Service Award

2008 Richard Lee Featherstone Endowed Prize Finalist

2006 Mortar Board Sphinx Chapter (Vice President 2007-2008)

2006 MSU Phi Beta Kappa

2006 MSU Sigma Delta Phi National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society

2004 MSU College of Human Medicine Medical Scholars Program (through 2008)

Research Experience:

2011-current MSU: Cohort Study of HIV-Associated Seizures in Epilepsy (CHASE)

2009-current MSU: Epilepsy-Associated Stigma in Zambia (EASZ)

2008-2012 World Health Organization: 2008 Global Burden of Disease Study

2008-2010 MSU: Decision Making Process of Institutional Review Board Members

2008 MSU: Race and Preterm Delivery

2007-2008 MSU Extension: Hispanic Health Project

2006-2008 MSU: Prostate Cancer Gene Expression

2004-2006 MSU: Nitric Oxide in Hypertension

2003 Hope College: Mating patterns of *Paramecium tetraurelia*

Professional Society Memberships:

American Academy of Neurology (AAN) since 2011
 American Physician Scientist Association (APSA) since 2008
 American Medical Student Association (AMSA) since 2008

Funding:

2012 American Medical Association Foundation HIV Seed Grant (\$2,500)
 2012 MSU College of Human Medicine Neurology Research Scholarship (\$2,000)
 2011 MSU College of Human Medicine Summer Research Support (\$2,000)
 2011 MSU Graduate School Research Enhancement Award (\$1,000)
 2009 MSU College of Human Medicine Summer Research Support (\$3,500)
 2008 Mortar Board Senior Honor Society Ramier Fellowship (\$3,000)
 2007 MSU Honors College Gillette Scholar (\$2,700)
 2004-2008 MSU Alumni Distinguished Scholarship Recipient (full tuition and housing)

Employment History:

2005-2008 Michigan State University
 Resident Assistant-Department of Residential Life
 Honors Floor Mentor
 2006-2008 Michigan State University
 Laboratory Assistant-Nestor DeOcampo
 2004-2006 Michigan State University
 Laboratory Assistant-Alex Chen
 2003 Hope College
 Laboratory Assistant-Donald Cronkite

Professional Service:

Epilepsia, Ad-hoc reviewer
 MSU, College of Human Medicine Curriculum Revision Committee (since 2012)
 MSU, Vice President for Research & Graduate Studies Search Committee (2012)
 American Medical Student Association Global Pulse Journal, Editor (since 2011)
 INPEP Annual Brown Bag Lecture Series, Speaker Coordinator (since 2010)
 American Physician Scientist Association, MSU Institutional Representative (2009-2013)

Teaching:

2007 Michigan State University, Teaching Assistant
 Integrative Studies for the Biological Sciences

Presentations:

2013 Zambian Ministry of Health: Seventh National Health Research Conference
 "Peer Support Groups as an Intervention to Decrease Epilepsy-Associated Stigma in Zambia"
 2011 MSU MD/PhD Program Symposium
 "Epilepsy-Associated Stigma in Zambia (EASZ) Peer Support Groups"
 2011 Department of Epidemiology PhD Journal Club
 "DALYs & Disability Weights: Statistical Assumptions in Morbidity"
 2009 MSU MD/PhD Program Symposium
 "WHO 2005 Global Burden of Disease Study"
 2008 Department of Epidemiology PhD Journal Club
 "WHO 2005 Global Burden of Disease Study"
 2007 National Undergraduate Bioethics Conference

“Genetic Pre-Counseling: A Physician Responsibility to Family Members”

Abstracts:

OK Siddiqi, **MA Elafros**, I Sikazwe, I Mulwani, CM Bositis, IJ Koralnik, L Kalungwana, MJ Potchen, GL Birbeck, WH Theodore. EEG Evaluation of New-onset Seizure in HIV-positive Patients at the University Teaching Hospital. 7th National Health Research Conference, 14-16 October 2013, Lusaka, Zambia. (Abstract book page 122.)

MA Elafros, OK Siddiqi, I Sikazwe, IJ Koralnik, L Kalungwana, WH Theodore, MJ Potchen, GL Birbeck, CM Bositis. Opportunistic Infection as an Underlying Cause of Seizure in HIV-Positive Patients at the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka. 7th National Health Research Conference, 14-16 October 2013, Lusaka, Zambia. (Abstract book page 119.)

OK Siddiqi, **MA Elafros**, I Sikazwe, CM Bositis, MJ Potchen, IJ Koralnik, WH Theodore, L Kalungwana, GL Birbeck. Etiology of New Onset Seizure in HIV+ Zambian Adults. 7th National Health Research Conference, 14-16 October 2013, Lusaka, Zambia. (Abstract book page 61.)

I Sikazwe, **MA Elafros**, OK Siddiqi, IJ Koralnik, L Kalungwana, CM Bositis, WH Theodore, MJ Potchen, GL Birbeck. First-Time Seizures, HIV, and Lumbar Puncture Acceptance at UTH, Lusaka. 7th National Health Research Conference, 14-16 October 2013, Lusaka, Zambia. (Abstract book page 97.)

MA Elafros, J Mulenga, E Mbewe, A Haworth, E Chomba, M Atadzhanov, GL Birbeck. Peer Support Groups as an Intervention to Decrease Epilepsy-Associated Stigma. 7th National Health Research Conference, 14-16 October 2013, Lusaka, Zambia. (Abstract book page 48.)

GL Birbeck, O Siddiqi, **M Elafros**, I Sikazwe, W Theodore, IJ Koralnik, C Bositis. Early Recurrent Seizures and Death in HIV+ Zambian Adults with New Onset Seizure. *Epilepsia* 2013, 54(Suppl3):272.

M Elafros, C Sakubita-Simasiku, E Mbewe, A Haworth, E Chomba, M Atadzhanov, GL Birbeck. Felt Stigma Among Mothers of Children with Epilepsy. *Epilepsia* 2013, 54(Suppl3):56.

OK Siddiqi, **M Elafros**, I Sikazwe, CM Bositis, MJ Potchen, I Koralnik, W Theodore, L Kalungwana, GL Birbeck. Seizure Etiology & Outcomes in HIV+ Zambian Adults. American Neurological Association, 7-9 October 2012, Boston, Massachusetts. (Abstract book page 91.)

MA Elafros, M Atadzhanov, E Chomba, A Haworth, E Mbewe, J Mulega, GL Birbeck. Peer Support Groups (PSGs) as an Intervention to Decrease Epilepsy-Associated Stigma in Zambia. 2012 American Medical Student Association Convention & Exposition, 8-11 March 2012, Houston, Texas. (Abstract book page 11.)

Peer-Reviewed Publications:

MA Elafros, E Bui, GL Birbeck. Phenobarbital Tolerability: An Adverse Events Profile in Rural Zambia. *Submitted to Epilepsia*.

L Kalungwana, **MA Elafros**, OK Siddiqi, CM Bositis, I Sikazwe, IJ Koralnik, WH Theodore, GL Birbeck. Cognitive Impairment and Psychiatric Morbidity in HIV+ Zambians with New Onset Seizure. *Submitted to American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*.

MA Elafros, R Bowles, J Mulenga, E Mbewe, A Haworth, E Chomba, M Atadzhanov, GL Birbeck. Reexamining Instruments for Characterizing Epilepsy-Associated Stigma. *In progress*.

MA Elafros, C Sakubita-Simasiku, A Haworth, E Chomba, M Atadzhanov, GL Birbeck. Stigma and Psychiatric Morbidity among Mothers of Children with Epilepsy in Zambia. *International Health*: 2013; 5(4): 288-294. PMID: 24214528.

MA Elafros, J Mulenga, E Mbewe, A Haworth, E Chomba, M Atadzhanov, GL Birbeck. Peer support groups as an intervention to decrease epilepsy-associated stigma. *Epilepsy & Behavior* 2013; 27(1): 188-92. PMID:23454914

MA Elafros, FJ Anderson. The impact of local capacity building on “brain drain” and maternal mortality in Ghana. *Global Pulse Journal* 2011; 6(4) available at: http://www.globalpulsejournal.com/fall11_drain.html.