A. Personal Statement

I am an early career investigator who is well qualified to serve as the principal investigator of the proposed project “Multilevel social determinants of postpartum mother/infant HIV care in rural Mozambique”. My formal epidemiology training included extensive training in the methodologies of study design and data analysis, with a heavy focus on biostatistics. My research interests include psychosocial factors affecting health outcomes related to HIV infection, care, and treatment; specifically HIV stigma, substance use, and retention in HIV care. Domestically, I am the PI of an NIH/NIDA funded R03 to assess prescription opioid misuse in people living with HIV. Internationally, my research has focused on how stigma impacts access and utilization of TB and HIV treatment and retention in care, specifically finding stigma to be associated with delays in seeking care, poor retention in care, and poor treatment adherence. I also recently directed a WHO-funded, mixed-methods study of facilitators and barriers to progress in reducing under-five mortality in Africa (Co-PI with Dr. Vermund). This included a large analysis of demographic and health data (published in BMJ Open) followed by four country case studies involving a review of national policy documents, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions (under review at Health Policy & Planning). Findings from both the quantitative study and the qualitative work across the four countries found specific community- and structural-level factors that play an important role in survival alongside availability and utilization of quality clinical care. Finally, I am currently working with Dr. Audet and a graduate student to finalize a manuscript assessing the impact of Dr. Audet’s male involvement program on antenatal care service uptake across six districts in Zambézia, Mozambique. Taken together, these research experiences serve as the basis for many of the core components of the proposed study, which builds on my recent methodologic and substantive work, combined with that of my colleagues and collaborators. We will utilize a diverse set of methods to examine the impact of HIV stigma and other social determinants on retention in HIV care.

B. Positions and Honors

Positions
2001 Internship, Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
2001-2003 ORISE Fellowship, Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Fort Collins, CO
2003-2004 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina School of Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC
2005-2006 Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
2006-2008 Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina School of Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC
2007-2009 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina School of Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC
2009–2015 Research Instructor (non-tenure track), Division of Epidemiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN
2013-2015 Scholar, HIV/AIDS, Substance Abuse, and Trauma Training Program, University of California, Los Angeles
2015–Present Research Assistant Professor, Division of Epidemiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN

Honors and Committees
2008-2009 Awardee, Infectious Disease Epidemiology Training Grant
2009-Present Member, Vanderbilt Epidemiology Center, Nashville, TN
2009-Present Member, Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health, Nashville, TN
2010-Present Member, Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health, Theta Chapter
2015-Present Participant, NIH Early Career Reviewer program

C. Contribution to Science

1. In addition to the studies of HIV stigma described above, I have also conducted more formative work on HIV stigma to better understand its determinants and measurement. We conducted one of the few studies to assess stigma among both patients and uninfected community members (a design that will be utilized in the proposed study) and also conducted a mixed-methods study to better understand how different measures of HIV stigma compare with each other.


2. I have conducted research on the impact of non-injection drug use among patients living with HIV, including an extensive literature review of this impacts HIV disease progression and mortality. These studies, two of which occurred in our HIV clinic cohort, combined with my time as a scholar in the HIV/AIDS, Substance Abuse, and Trauma Training Program through the University of California, Los Angeles, laid the groundwork for my current R03 on prescription opioid misuse for which preliminary publications are forthcoming. We are currently drafting manuscripts that a) report qualitative work exploring the intersection of traumatic experiences, chronic pain (both physical and mental/emotional), and substance use, b) the relationship between marijuana use and dosage of prescribed opioids.
(abstract accepted at AIDS 2016 conference), and c) the impact of daily marijuana use on missed clinic visits. Prior work is shown below.


3. A third area of research interest is in vector-borne and tropical infectious diseases. My early work in this area with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention focused on monitoring the spread and impact of West Nile Virus as it moved west across the US. As a post-baccalaureate researcher, I oversaw a small study that quantified the presence of virus in American Crow feces, providing evidence of potentially high virus burden in crowded crow roosts that could impact transmission dynamics. More recently I have worked with Dr. Vermund on follow-up studies of adult helminth infections in Kenya.


### D. Research Support

#### Ongoing Research Support

1. **H79 SP021359-01** (Cooper, PI)  
   DHHS/SAMHSA  
   Reducing HIV and substance abuse among MSM on Black college and university Campuses  
   The goal of this project is to utilize community partnerships along with the provision of coordinated culturally competent outreach, HIV and HCV risk reduction interventions, and substance abuse prevention/intervention to African American young men (ages 18-24) on the campuses of Meharry Medical College, Fisk University, and Tennessee State University.  
   Role: Co-Investigator (15%)  
   10/01/2015 – 09/30/2018

2. **R03DA039743**, Kipp (PI)  
   NIH/NIDA  
   Characterizing non-medical prescription opioid use and pain in people living with HIV  
   04/15/2015 – 03/31/2017
The goal of this study is to identify the severity of non-medical opioid use among people with HIV and its association with pain and other substance use, and to inform ways to improve pain management while avoiding risks of non-medical opioid use.

Completed Research Support
NO GRANT NUMBER, Kipp (PI) 09/17/2013 – 05/31/2015
University of California, Los Angeles: HIV/AIDS, Substance Abuse, and Trauma Training Program
Contribution of lifetime traumatic events to chronic pain and prescription opioid use and misuse among people living with HIV
The goal of this seed grant is to collect preliminary data on prescription opioid misuse among people living with HIV and to explore the role of traumatic life events as a source of pain for which they seek prescription opioids. Preliminary data will come from a medical record review to ascertain prescribed opioid use, a survey to identify prevalence of pain and prescription opioid misuse, and qualitative interviews to identify key themes around pain, traumatic events, and substance use.

NO GRANT NUMBER, Vermund, Kipp (co-PIs) 09/01/2012 – 6/15/2014
World Health Organization
The goal of this project is to assess the key drivers of improved child survival observed in some of the 46 countries in the WHO/AFRO region through an analytic review of data from all 46 countries in the region followed by detailed case studies in four selected countries.

NO GRANT NUMBER, Kipp (PI) 07/18/2011 – 07/17/2012
Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research
Re-Validation of Two HIV Stigma Scales for Use among People Living with HIV
The goal of this study is to re-validate two HIV stigma scales for use in an HIV clinic in the Southeastern United States and to determine whether they are comparable in their measurement of HIV stigma.