

**Lu Shi, PhD, Heath Science
Scott Youmans, PhD, MS CSD
College of Health Professions**

**Learning Epidemiology through Clinical Innovation:
Involving an Undergraduate Class to Assess A Pilot Taichi Program for Aphasia Patients**

Motivation: Learning epidemiology at the undergraduate level might feel like working with abstract numbers that have little to do with clinical practice or community health promotion. Building hands-on research experience into an undergraduate epidemiology course, by having the class work together to evaluate a pilot clinical intervention and then write a research paper under the supervision of two well published Pace University professors, could help students practice the analytical skills they are learning from an epidemiology course.

Approach: Drs. Lu Shi and Scott Youman will embed readings about stroke, aphasia and mindfulness/Taichi research throughout the syllabus, from descriptive epidemiology (prevalence, incidence, etc.) to analytical epidemiology (case report, cohort study, quasi-experiment, randomized controlled trials). Students will form four study groups, each focusing on one integral element of a research paper: background introduction, methodology, results, and discussion. Drs. Shi and Youman will supervise each group's reading, analytical and writing tasks, making sure that the project reports fit the writing standard of a publishable research paper.

Deliverable: The project reports from each group will be organized into a well-written research paper and then be submitted to a peer-reviewed academic journal. All student participants will share the co-authorship once the research paper is published.