Toward Disease-Resistant School Communities by Reinventing the Interfaces among Built Environments, Occupants, and

Microbiomes #1952140 Shuai Li, University of Tennessee Knoxville PG, FY2020

## Principal Research Investigators (Name, Institution)

- Shuai Li, Civil Engineering, University of Tennessee
- Qiang He, Environmental Engineering, UTK
- Xueping Li, Industrial & System Engineering, UTK
- Tami Wyatt, Nursing, UTK

- Team building

- Qingyan Chen, Mechanical Engineering, Purdue
  University
- Courtney Cronley, Social Work, UTK
- Jiannan Cai, Construction Management, The University of Texas at San Antonio (*Hispanic-serving institution*)
- Adrienne Cooper, Environmental Engineering, Florida Memorial University (*Historically black colleges and universities*)
- Eric Du, Virtual Reality, University of Florida
- Jian Liu, Electrical and Computer Engineering, UTK

### **Community Partners (Name, Institution)**

- Nan Gaylord, Vine School Health Center
- Tammy Van Dyk, East Tennessee Children Hospital



- Cheryl Ball, Knox Education Foundation
- Willie Burroughs, San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD)
- Chris Salley, SAISD
- Michael McBrien, Webb School of Knoxville
- Matt Ryerson, United Way of Greater Knoxville
- Michael Walton, Green Space
- Richard Kingston, Knoxville Community Development Corporation

## **Project Overview**

### **Our Planning Grant**



## **Project Vision for IRG**







# **Project Overview**

## **Use-Inspired Research**

- How to make school environments healthy and sustainable?
  - <u>Engineering</u>: develop knowledge-based design and operation adaptation
  - Social Science: evaluate the social acceptance and intelligence of the adaptation
  - <u>Community</u>: ensure the desirability, feasibility, and viability of the adaption.
- Seven community partners
- Four states across U.S. : Tennessee, Florida, Texas, Indiana
- **Five** cities: Knoxville, Gainesville, Miami Gardens, San Antonio, West Lafayette



### **PG Activities**

- Convergence Project Team Building
  - 10 domain experts from 5 institutions (including a Hispanic-serving institution and a HBCU)
  - 100 schools serving 75,000 students
  - o Multiple community partners
- Research Refinement and Concept Proofing
  - About 4000 samples collected in built environments
  - Exposure and infection modeling and operation cost assessment
  - Community-centric engagement model for development and implementation
  - Crowdsourced big data for personalized intervention

## **Project Update**



K-12 students taking microbiome samples in Schools



Design and Operation Factor Identification



a) Impact of COVID-19 mitigation practices on microbial exposure in four adjacent classrooms by long-term indoor microbiome monitoring. Red circle: indoor microbiomes post COVID-19 mitigation practices, b) microbiome composition is distinct in buildings of different layout, c) Impact of point-of-use filtration on microbial and heavy metal exposure via drinking water in campus buildings. Dots: drinking water microbiomes; arrows: drinking water quality parameters.

#### Contaminations in School Buildings with Different Design and Operation Factors



National Assessment of Airborne Infection Risk and Energy Cost in U.S. Schools

## **Project Evolution**

#### **Challenges from Communities**

**Restricted School Access** 



#### Solutions

Virtual engagement to achieve broader acceptance and implementability

Data Privacy Issues



Privacy-preserving community data collection and processing

Motivation for Participation



"Citizen science" approach with experiential learning

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