

NATALIA BABENKO

Fulbright Scholar

University of South Florida
School of Aging Studies | College of Behavioral and Community Sciences
4202 E. Fowler Ave., MHC1322
Tampa, FL 33620
nataliababenko@usf.edu
[LinkedIn](#)

EDUCATION

- 2023 - Present **Ph.D. in Aging Studies**, University of South Florida
Advisor: William E. Haley, Ph.D.
- 2021 - 2023 **Graduate Certificate**, Health Management and Leadership, University of South Florida
- 2021 - 2023 **Master of Public Health**, University of South Florida
Concentration: Global Health Practice
- 2012 - 2013 **Master of Chemistry and Teaching**, Donetsk National University, Ukraine
Concentration: Analytical Chemistry
- 2008 - 2012 **Bachelor of Chemistry**, Donetsk National University, Ukraine
Concentration: Analytical Chemistry

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Preventing Alzheimer's disease and related dementias
Social connection & engagement
Health behavior & cognition of older adults
Mental health of cancer survivors

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications

Alemasova, N., **Babenko, N.**, Alemasova, A. (2016). Electrothermal Atomic Absorption Determination of Gold in Iron-Containing Materials Following Dispersion Microextraction Concentration. *Industrial laboratory. Diagnostics of materials*, 82(7), 21-25.
https://www.zldm.ru/jour/article/view/272?locale=en_US

Manuscripts in Progress

Babenko, N., Elayoubi, J., & Haley, W. (2024). Depressive Symptoms in Cancer Survivors and Controls over Time: The Role of Social Connection and Engagement.

Babenko, N., Kranz, N., Haley, W., Bojorge, S., Perdiguero, L., Bastardo, J., & Dobbs, D. (2024). Physician's Views on Ways to Mitigate the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Mental Health of Healthcare Workers in the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua.

Unni, M., **Babenko, N.,** Santana, L., & Yadav, H. (2024). Geroscience-based Targets to Delay Aging and its Related Conditions: A Drug Approach.

Babenko, N., Santana, L., Wofford, K., Hanson, A., & Haley, W. (2025). The Long-Term Impact of the Neighborhood Environment on the Cognitive Abilities of Older Adults: A Scoping Review.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2023	Learn. Serve. Lead Award, University of South Florida
2023	Outstanding Student Organization Award, University of South Florida
2022	Edmund S. Muskie Professional Fellowship Program, U.S. Department of State
2022	Florida Public Health Student Scholarship, University of South Florida
2021 - 2023	International Student Book Scholarship, University of South Florida
2021 - 2023	Fulbright Scholarship, U.S. Department of State

Editorial and REVIEWER Tasks

Ad hoc reviewer, *Preventing Chronic Disease Journal*, 2023

Ad hoc reviewer, *Psychology and Aging*, 2024

Ad hoc reviewer, *The Gerontologist*, 2024

OTHER RESEARCH AND COMPUTER SKILLS

Programming Languages: SAS, SPSS, R, ChemStat

Data Analytic Skills: Quantitative and qualitative data analysis

Software Experience: Microsoft Office, Zoom, ChemDraw, BioRender, Atlas.ti,

Management: EndNote, Covidence, Rayyan, Westlaw

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2023 - present **University of South Florida, Tampa, FL**
Graduate Teaching Assistant, GEY 4612: Psychology of Aging
(undergraduate class)

Guest Lectures

Age-Friendly Outdoor Spaces: Benefits of Neighborhood Cohesion for Older Adults, June 2024, ChangeLab Solutions

Health Benefits of Social Engagement: Addressing Loneliness and Social Isolation, January 2024, University of South Florida, OLLI-USF

Memory & Attention, Psychology of Aging, Fall 2023, University of South Florida

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

Poster Presentations

Babenko, N., Kranz, N., Haley, W., Dobbs, D., Bojorge, S., Perdiguero, L., & Bastardo, J. (March 28, 2024). Mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of healthcare workers: Perspective of physicians in the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua. Poster presentation at USF Graduate Research Symposium, Tampa, FL

Babenko, N., Kranz, N., Haley, W., Dobbs, D., Bojorge, S., Perdiguero, L., & Bastardo, J. (March 1, 2024). Mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of healthcare workers: Perspective of physicians in the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua. Poster presentation at USF Health Research Day, Tampa, FL

Babenko, N., Bojorge, S., Bastardo, J., McDonald, K., & Perdiguero, L. (May 2022). Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Mental Health of Healthcare Workers: A Multi-Center, Cross-Sectional Study. Oral presentation at the University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Oral Presentations

Babenko, N. (July 11, 2024). Proposal for Integrating Age-Friendly Policies and Practices into the Legal and Policy Frameworks Outlined in ChangeLab Solutions' Blueprint for Changemakers and Strategies for Equitable Policymaking. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, VA

Babenko, N., Kranz, N., Haley, W., Dobbs, D., Bojorge, S., Perdiguero, L., & Bastardo, J. (April 2, 2024). Mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of healthcare workers: Perspective of physicians in the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua. Southern Gerontological Society Conference, SC

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

- 01.2024 – 07.2024 **CDC Public Health Law Fellow, Oakland CA**
ChangeLab Solutions
- Created content pertaining to public health law and legal epidemiology.
 - Developed proposals to advance health equity through laws and policies.
 - Created policies to increase the diversity and capacity of the public health law workforce.
- 05.2022 - 05.2023 **President of the Global Health Student Association, Tampa FL**
University of South Florida
- Ran the Global Health Student Association.
 - Supervised and coached senior leaders of the Association.
 - Presided over meetings, oversaw organizational functions, and acted as a primary University liaison.
 - Planned the annual organizational budget.
 - Planned and organized student activities related to global health.
- 05.2022 – 08.2022 **Performance Improvement Intern, Washington, D.C.**
Public Health Foundation
- Developed grant proposals to improve public health infrastructure of local health departments.
 - Developed two training plans and two learning bundles for continuing education for healthcare professionals.
 - Developed a PHF blog about early detection of Alzheimer's disease.
 - Conducted consultancy work to increase technical assistance to local public health departments within the CDC Public Health Infrastructure Program.
- 09.2020 – 07.2021 **Regulatory Affairs Manager for the Eurasian Economic Union,**
 Moscow, Russia
Belupo Pharmaceuticals & Cosmetics Inc.
- Planned and implemented drug registration policies and strategies in the EAEU which resulted in an *expansion of market share by 10%*.
 - Established and optimized regulatory affairs procedures in the company headquarters, resulting in a *30%-time reduction in dossier compilation*.
 - Planned and monitored budget of *\$170,000 for regulatory activities*.
 - Mentored and guided staff on expanding local regulatory strategies to union and alliance settings.
- 02.2018 – 09.2020 **Analytical Documentation Specialist, Yegorievsk, Russia**
JSC Gedeon Richter-RUS
- Coordinated and supervised the performance of analytical and technological transfers.
 - Assisted in the development of a multi-country regulatory drug strategy.
 - Developed and implemented Risk Assessment policies.
 - Trained staff to conduct risk assessments of drugs and raw materials.
 - Collaborated with Polish, Hungarian, and Romanian colleagues on developing regulatory strategies for new drugs.

11.2014 – 02.2018 **Quality Engineer**, Yegorievsk, Russia

JSC Gedeon Richter-RUS

- Managed multiple analytical and technological project transfers.
- Coordinated cross-functional teams of chemists to meet deadlines and ensure compliance with regulatory standards.
- Elaborated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), plans, validation reports, and specifications for active pharmaceutical ingredients and final dosage forms.
- Developed and implemented corrective and preventive measures in the department, and ensured the quality management system.
- Developed analytical procedures for validation and monitoring of washing machines.
- Trained and mentored chemists.

07.2013 – 10.2014 **Analytical Development Chemist**, Makeevka, Ukraine

NIKO LLC

- Developed analytical techniques for multi-component drugs.
- Conducted research.
- Assisted in training new chemists.
- Tested, validated, and verified analytical methods.
- Monitored drug product stability trends.
- Established SOPs.

CERTIFICATIONS

2024	Online Instructor Certification <i>University of South Florida, CITL</i>
2024	Course Enhancement with Generative AI <i>University of South Florida, CITL</i>
2024	Faculty Readiness for Teaching Online <i>University of South Florida</i>
2024	Teaching Assistant Language Assessment <i>University of South Florida, CITL</i>
2023	Preparing for College Teaching <i>University of South Florida</i>
2022	Certified in Public Health (CPH) <i>National Board of Public Health Examiners</i>
2022	Social/Behavioral Investigators and Key Personnel – Refresher Course <i>Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)</i>
2021	Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research <i>Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)</i>
2021	Social and Behavioral Research Best Practices for Clinical Research <i>Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)</i>

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2021 - Present	American Psychological Association (APA)
2022 - Present	Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA)
2023 - Present	Gerontological Society of America (GSA)
2023 - Present	Florida Council on Aging
2023 - Present	American Public Health Association (APHA)
2023 - Present	Sleep Research Society (SRS)
2023 - Present	Alzheimer's Association International Society to Advance Alzheimer's Research and Treatment (ISTAART)

Volunteer Experience

05.2024 – present	Appalachian State University, <i>Rhode Island</i> The InterGenerational Technology Engagement for Higher Education Program (IG TECH), Delphi panel review member
10.2023 – present	University of South Florida, <i>Tampa, FL</i> Age-friendly Dissemination Research Project, Manager
10.2023 – 01.2024	Seniors in Service, <i>Tampa, FL</i> Healthy Buddy Volunteer
09.2023 – present	The Journals of Gerontology Journal Reviewer
09.2023 – present	The Gerontologist Journal Reviewer
06.2022 – 11.2022	Alzheimer's Association, <i>Washington D.C.</i> New IDEAS Study Volunteer
03.2022 – present	Osher Lifelong Learning at University of South Florida, <i>Tampa, FL</i> Educator
10.2021	USF Hurricane Activating Hybrid Shelter Exercise, <i>Tampa, FL</i> Assistant