

Biosketch-Roman Pabayo, PhD

Roman Pabayo is currently a Canadian Institutes of Health Research funded, postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Harvard School of Public Health. He completed his Doctoral Degree in Epidemiology at the School of Public Health, University of Montreal. Dr. Pabayo's main research interests include studying the Social Determinants of Health, which are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age and how they influence health and well-being.

His overarching research agenda focuses on how the social environment leads to obesity, cardiovascular disease, and mortality through mediators such as, social cohesion, stress, physical activity, and dietary intake. He investigates how populations from lower socio-economic backgrounds are more likely to participate in unhealthy behaviors such as physical inactivity, sedentary behavior and poor nutrition. Subsequently, these populations are more likely to experience greater morbidity and mortality compared to their more privileged counterparts. Also, social and health disparities persist among ethnic and racial groups (e.g., among Blacks and Latinos). His short-term research interests include examining social and environmental determinants of several health behaviors that include dietary behavior and physical activity. Dr. Pabayo's previous research has identified several important social, behavioral, and environmental risk factors for dietary intake such as soft-drink consumption, sedentary behavior and physical activity, and weight status. His long-term research goals include studying the mechanisms and pathways that lead from social determinants to health outcomes.

Dr. Pabayo has established collaborations with researchers from Canada, the United States, England, Nepal, Brazil, Australia, and Mexico. These investigators come from a diverse field of research that encompasses epidemiology, medicine, nutrition, physical education, psychology, health geography, and environmental health. As a result, he has published 17 articles in peer-reviewed journals and has presented over 25 abstracts at national and international conferences.