



UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
CENTER FOR
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The HealthTech Update

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Spotlight on:
Kar-Hai Chu, PhD



Kar-Hai Chu is an Assistant Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics, and Public Health at the [Center for Research on Media, Technology, and](#)

Health (MTH). Before joining MTH in 2016, Dr. Chu completed his PhD at the University of Hawaii and was a public health researcher at the University of Southern California. His current research focuses on using social network analysis and online technologies to maximize tobacco cessation, particularly among adolescents.

See a preview of our interview with Dr. Chu and read the full interview below!

CBHST: Your recent research has focused heavily on tobacco control among adolescents. What inspired you to pursue research in this field?

I became interested in tobacco control partially for personal reasons. Most of my family smokes, and many of my older family members have died from smoking related diseases and cancer. I began working with adolescents, however, because of the type of work that I do. Social network analysis is my main methodology, and peer networks and relationships are most important for younger people. Teenagers also tend to use technology more than other age groups. I've really enjoyed working with adolescents, partially because I think people who work with adolescent populations are very motivated and driven, and working with kids is often considered a calling.

[Full Interview](#)

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