**Who:** The Lemas Lab within the UF College of Medicine in the Department of Health Outcomes and Biomedical Informatics is looking for talented undergraduate students interested in gaining experience as research assistant in the areas of child-maternal health, bioinformatics and pediatric obesity. These are non-paid positions that require 3 semester commitment with preference.

**Background:** Pediatric obesity affects 1 in 3 children in the US and represents a public health crisis. In utero exposure to maternal obesity and caesarean section (C-section) are independently and jointly associated with offspring obesity. Accumulating data suggests maternal obesity and C-section may seed an “obesogenic” microbiome responsible for transmitting obesity risk from mother to child. Exclusive breastfeeding is associated with protection against pediatric obesity; however, the association between human milk components and the microbiome that account for these observations are poorly characterized. Recent advances in metabolomics analysis provide a novel opportunity to investigate how the human milk metabolome in combination with microbe-host interactions are associated with infant adiposity during the first year of life. The Principal Investigator, Dr. Dominick J. Lemas, Ph.D. is currently enrolling a cohort of mothers in Gainesville and following mothers and their infants through the first year of life to understand the molecular mechanisms that drive the anti-obesity effects of breastfeeding. Our group collects a variety of novel data types that include electronic health records, self-reported questionnaire data, high-throughput sequence data and high-resolution metabolomics data.

**Seeking:** We are looking for undergraduate research assistants to help our team recruit pregnant mothers in Gainesville for a longitudinal clinical study related to breastfeeding.

**Benefits:** This opportunity allows for involvement in a large-scale clinical research study, CV builder, and volunteer hours with potential for clinical interactions with participants during study visits at the Clinical and Translational Research Institute.

**Responsibilities:** Distribute flyers to the general public at strategically chosen locations. Recruit, screen and enroll participants into the research study. Follow communication “scripts” when handling different topics. Update and manage a RedCap database; including data entry, electronic survey development, and report building for participants. Assist clinical staff with sample collection. Additional opportunities include: independent research project based on available data, attending research meetings and development of research materials (figures, presentation slides, ect) that contribute to peer-reviewed manuscripts and research presentations.

**Time Commitment:** Approximately 5 hours a week; be able to attend all required meetings.

**Process to Apply**: Interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis. Please send resume/CV with cover letter describing your interest in this project and how your personal experiences can contribute to our team as an undergraduate research assistant. Please email complete applications to Magda Francois (magdafrancois@ufl.edu).