

SPM NEWS

Department of Social & Preventive Medicine

School of Public Health and Health Professions, State University of New York at Buffalo

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June 2003

Marcia Wopperer, editor

Society for Epidemiologic Research

The 36th Annual Meeting of the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) was held in Atlanta, GA, June 11-14. Presentations made by SPM faculty, students and alumni included:

- ♦ **John Acquavella**, Ph.D. ('89), "*Pesticide Biomonitoring and Exposure Assessment in Epidemiologic Research*" (poster)
- ♦ **Matthew Bonner**, Ph.D., "*Total Suspended Particulate Exposure in Early Life and Breast Cancer*" (poster)
- ♦ **Jo Freudenheim**, Ph.D., "*Drinks Per Drinking Occasion in Relation to Breast Cancer Risk*" (paper)
- ♦ **Daikwon Han**, Ph.D., "*Clustering of Lifetime Residence and Breast Cancer Risk in Western New York*" (paper)
- ♦ **Kirsten Moysich**, Ph.D., "*Long-Term Psychological Well-Being Among Individuals Affected by the Chernobyl Accident*" (poster)
- ♦ **Jing Nie**, M.S., "*Residential Proximity to Chemical or Primary Metal Industry and the Risk of Breast Cancer in Western New York*" (poster)
- ♦ **Enrique Schisterman**, Ph.D. ('99) "*Comparison of Diagnostic Accuracy of Biomarkers with Pooled Assessments*" (poster)
- ♦ **Ralph Sibley**, Ph.D. (M.S. '02), "*Case-Control of External Ionizing Radiation Dose and Mortality From Dementia Nested Within a Pooled Cohort of Female Nuclear Weapons Workers*" (poster)
- ♦ **Saverio Stranges**, "*Alcohol Intake, Drinking Pattern and Hepatic Enzymes in a Population-Based Study*" (poster)

James Marshall, Ph.D. was the moderator for a Spotlight Session on *Nutrition Epidemiology* and a member of the Roundtable on *Nutritional Epidemiology, on to Chemoprevention*.

Fond Farewells

John Vena, Ph.D. has accepted a position as chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Norman J. Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina effective August 18. Dr. Vena joined the Department in 1981 as assistant professor. He served as associate chair from 1981-2001 and was promoted to full professor in 1994. Dr. Vena also served as Director of Graduate Studies from 1997-1999, Director of the Research Program in Environmental and Occupational Health from 1981-2003, and Director of the Environmental and Society Institute at the University of Buffalo from 2000-2003. His community service includes membership on the City of Buffalo Environmental Management Commission, County of Erie Board of Health, Minority Health Coalition Executive Board, and Steering Committee of Erie County Environment and Planning. As chair of the Host Committee for the 12th Annual Meeting of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, Dr. Vena was given the honorary title of *Ambassador to Buffalo*.

Jacek Dmochowski, Ph.D. has accepted a position as associate professor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of North Carolina effective August 2003. Dr. Dmochowski joined the Department of Statistics in 1995 as a visiting assistant professor and Director of the Statistical Consulting Laboratory. He was promoted to assistant professor in 1996.

The department extends deep appreciation to Drs. Vena and Dmochowski for their many years of service and dedication to the program.

Honors and Awards



Julie Baker, R.N., M.S. was awarded an NIH Summer Research Fellow. She will work with Dr. Germaine Buck at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.



Michael Bloom, M.S. was awarded a *Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Graduate Student Fellowship* from the US Environmental Protection Agency to pursue his doctoral dissertation research. The program is highly competitive with approximately 50 of the 1,300 annual applications funded. The fellowship provides up to \$34,000 per year for stipend, tuition and expenses for a maximum of three years.



Matthew Bonner, Ph.D. received the 2003 *Saxon Graham Award* for excellence in epidemiology and community health.



Matthew was also awarded a postdoctoral fellowship from the National Cancer Institute effective August 1.



Anne Deutsch, Ph.D. was awarded a two-year postdoctoral fellowship from the Institute for Health Services Research and Policy Studies at Northwestern University.



Jo Freudenheim, Ph.D. received the *Distinguished Faculty Award* from the UB Institute for Research and Education on Women and Gender.



Gary Giovino, Ph.D. received the *Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco Doll-Wynder Award* for his research in tobacco epidemiology, and



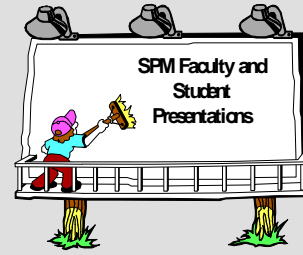
also the *Charles C. Shepard Science Award* for outstanding scientific contribution to public health for his work on several Surgeons' General Reports on Smoking and Health.



Kirsten Moysich, Ph.D. received the 2002 *Young Alumnus Achievement Award* from the State University College of New York at Buffalo.



Edith Williams, M.S. was awarded an Arthur A. Schomburg Graduate Fellowship. Schomburg Fellowships are awarded to under-represented minority students who have completed their undergraduate/graduate studies with distinction. Recipients receive a stipend with full tuition scholarship.



The following presentations by faculty and students include:

Marcelo Araujo, D.D.S., "*Dental Hygiene Practices and Oral/Dental Health Among Alcoholic Inpatients: Pilot Study*" at the American Association for Dental Research meeting, San Antonio, TX, March 12-15.

Tammy Austin-Ketch, M.S., "*Health Promotion in Migrant Daycare: An Early Step Toward Improving Health Outcomes*" at the 11th Annual Primary Care for the Underserved Conference held in Boston, March 20-23.

"*Measuring Cultural Competency: The Match Between Curricular Content, Student Attitudes, and Practice Skills*" at the Forces of Change in Nurse Practitioner Education's 29th Annual Meeting of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties held April 3-6.

"*Assessing and Understanding Health Literacy: Establishing a Foundation for Successful Clinical Encounters*" at the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners 2003 National Convention in Anaheim, CA, June 28-July 3.

Tammy was also an invited panel presenter for the UB Health Disparities Committee's *Conversation in the Disciplines* conference held April 4.

Matthew Bonner, Ph.D., poster entitled "*Environmental Tobacco Smoke Exposure in Early Life and Breast Cancer*" at the American Association for Cancer Research in Washington, DC, July 14-21.

Jo Freudenheim, Ph.D., "*Diet and Alcohol in Breast Cancer Epidemiology: Recent Results*" at the Department of Nutrition, Harvard School of Public Health in January.

Martin Mahoney, M.D., Ph.D., "*MED*ASSIST: Examining the Cost-Effectiveness of a Smoking Cessation Trial Among Medicaid Clients*" at the National Conference on Smoking and Health held in San Francisco in November; "*Immunization Update 2003*" and "*2003 Cervical Cancer Screening Update*" at the Annual Winter Weekend and Scientific Assembly, NYS Academy of Family Physicians and American Cancer Society, Lake Placid, NY in January; "*Interfaces Between Epidemiology, Primary Care and Cancer Control: Reading Between the Guidelines*" presented at Science Decade 2003, Juraissic Society, RPCI in April.

Kirsten Moysich, Ph.D., invited seminar “*Leukemia Risk and Chernobyl-Related Ionizing Radiation*” at the National Cancer Institute, Radiation Epidemiology Branch on June 4.

Heather Ochs, poster presentations entitled “*The Relation of Serum Levels of Antioxidant Vitamins and Pulmonary Function in Individuals With Chronic Airflow Limitation*” and “*Improved Classification of Antioxidant Status Using Serum and Dietary Levels for Investigation of the Antioxidant Vitamin-Lung Function Association*” at the 99th Annual Meeting of the American Thoracic Society held in Seattle, WA in May.

Hamed Rezaishiraz, poster presentation entitled “*Impact of Over the Counter Reclassification on Use and Success Rate of the Nicotine Skin Patch and Gum*” at the 9th Annual Meeting of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco, New Orleans, LA, February 19-22. The abstract of this presentation was among the top 50 as determined at the peer review process and will be published in the Journal of Nicotine and Tobacco Review.

Frank Schimpfhauser, Ph.D., “*Correlates of Performance on a High Stakes Clinical Exam Focusing on Communication Skills*” at the Association of American Medical Colleges Annual Meeting held in San Francisco on November 7.

Maurizio Trevisan, M.D., M.S., invited presentation “*Hormone Replacement Therapy*” at the Global Symposium on Cardiovascular Prevention in Marabella, Spain on April 12.

John Vena, Ph.D. served as moderator for the panel/workshop on “*Environmental Justice – Local and National Challenges*” at the Environmental and Society Colloquium Commemorating Earth Day 2003 held at the Center for Tomorrow, University at Buffalo on April 4.

John Violanti, Ph.D., presentation entitled “*The Psychological Casualties of Combat*” to the faculty and cadets at the US Military Academy at West Point.

New Grants

Martin Mahoney, M.D., Ph.D., was awarded a three-year \$343,591 grant entitled “*Obstructive Changes and Cytogenetic Abnormalities: A Cross-Sectional Study of Tobacco Smoke Exposure*” from the Flight Attendants Medical Research Institute. This study will examine current sources and levels of second-hand smoke exposures among non-smokers using validated interview items and blood cotinine measurement. The methodology will combine interview data on tobacco smoke exposures with

objective measures of urinary cotinine levels to explore relationships between secondhand smoke exposure and measures of preclinical obstructive changes in lung function, cytogenetics, replication synchrony and NMR metabolic spectra profiles. Co-investigators include Drs. **Andrew Hyland**, **Annmarie Block**, **Michael Cummings**, Greg Loewen, Jessica Englert, **Sara Abrams**, James Alderfer, **Joseph Bauer** and Joel Huberman.

Kirsten Moysich was awarded a five-year \$598,727 grant from NIH/NCI entitled “*Inflammation and Ovarian Cancer.*” The goal of this multi-site population based case-control study is to explore the role of inflammation in ovarian cancer etiology, with a specific emphasis on the effect of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) on ovarian cancer risk. Collaborators include Drs. Kerry Rodabaugh from RPCI and Roberta Ness from the University of Pittsburgh.

Paola Muti, M.D. received a three-year \$508,339 grant from the Department of Defense entitled “*Estrogen Metabolism and Prostate Cancer Risk: A Prospective Study.*” Co-investigators include Drs. **Jo Freudenheim**, **Richard Donahue**, **Christopher Sempos** and **Holger Schunemann**. This study is based on the Western New York Health Prospective Cohort Study aimed to prospectively investigate the role of estrogen in prostate cancer etiology.

Names in the News



Marcel Araujo, **Julie Baker**, **Renee Brennan**, **Sylvia Quick** and **Mark Travers** successfully passed their Preliminary Exam in January 2003.

Julie Baker, **Ravi Menezes** and **Nicole Scouras** were nominated for *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities* for Fall 2003.

Jo Freudenheim, Ph.D. was appointed Interim Chair of the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine effective February 3, 2003.

Gary Giovino, Ph.D. was co-chair for the Epidemiology and Surveillance Breakout Group on “*Women, Tobacco, and Cancer: An Agenda for the 21st Century*” held in Houston, TX, February 3-5.

Daikwon Han has recently joined the Department as a postdoctoral fellow. Daikwon received his doctorate from the Department of Geography with a focus on GIS methodology. He was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship from the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Program.

Susan McCann, Ph.D. was appointed assistant member in the Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences at RPCI effective May 2003.

Arthur Michalek, Ph.D. has been appointed liaison for the American Association for Cancer Education to the National Cancer Advisory Board. Dr. Michalek will assume the presidency of the AACE at the annual meeting held in October.

Paola Muti, M.D. was an invited delegate of the European Commission Working Group on "Biobanks for Health." The group met in Oslo, Norway in January to produce guidelines and recommendations for large implementation of biological specimen banks in Europe. Dr. Muti was also elected member of the Cancer Cube Group (C³), National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health.

Michael Noe, M.D., M.P.H. was appointed Interim Chair of Rehabilitation Sciences; and Associate Dean, Community Relations and Clinical Affairs in the School of Public Health and Health Professions effective January 30.

Heather Ochs was appointed student member of the Education Committee in the Department of SPM.

Erin O'Leary, Ph.D. ('99) has accepted a position as research instructor in the Department of Preventive Medicine at Stony Brook University Health Sciences Center.

John Vena, Ph.D. was elected to a three-year term as Councilor of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology.

Jean Wactawski-Wende, Ph.D. was appointed principal investigator of the University at Buffalo Center for the Women's Health Initiative effective February 1. Dr. Wactawski-Wende has served as co-principal investigator of the Initiative since 1993.

Department of Biostatistics

The Division of Biostatistics was formally approved as the Department of Biostatistics on June 13. As always Biostatistics will continue to have an open door policy to all who are seeking scientific collaborations. The Department is happy to announce the appointment of two new faculty members, Drs. **Randy Carter** as full professor and **Daniel Gaile** as research assistant professor. Dr. Carter received his M.S. in Statistics from San Diego State University in 1972 and his Ph.D. in Statistics from Iowa State University in 1976. Dr. Gaile received his M.A. in Statistics from the

University at Buffalo in 1996 and his Ph.D. in Statistics from Texas A&M in 2003.

General Preventive Medicine Residency Program

Drs. **Randa Chanda**, **Margaret Eberl** and **Gabriela Neagoe** will begin their General Preventive Medicine Residency in the Department of SPM. Dr. Chanda received his M.B.B.S. from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in 2000. He began his residency in the Combined Program in Internal Medicine/General Preventive Medicine in 2001 and will begin his PGY III year on October 1. Dr. Eberl received her M.D. from the University at Buffalo in 2000. She completed her residency in Family Medicine at UB in June 2003 and will begin her PGY III in the Cancer Track of the General Preventive Medicine Residency on July 1. Dr. Neagoe received her M.D. from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Carol Davila in Bucharest in 1996. She completed her PGY I residency in Internal Medicine at Mount Sinai in 2000.

Ifeoma Stella Izuchukwu, M.D. completed the Combined Program in Internal Medicine/General Preventive Medicine on June 23. Dr. Izuchukwu has accepted a position as assistant clinical professor of Medicine at UCLA, and staff physician at the VA Medical Center.

Resident Scholarly Exchange Day

The 6th Annual Resident Scholarly Exchange Day was held April 24 in the Biomedical Education Building Atrium. Research conducted by residents in the Graduate Medical Dental Education Consortium of Buffalo were presented providing participants with valuable feedback from faculty researchers and fellow residents. Presentations from General Preventive Medicine residents included posters by **Elie Akl**, M.D., "Development of a Decision Aid for COPD Patients Considering Inhaled Steroid Therapy" and **Ifeoma Stella Izuchukwu**, M.D. "Evidence Based Medicine."

New Graduates

The following students successfully completed all degree requirements for **February 2003** degree conferral.

M.P.H.

Jessica Jensen, "Public Health Interventions for Decreasing Hospitalizations in Erie County Due to Asthma Attacks."

Vanaja Puli, M.B.B.S., “*Economic Impact of Clean Indoor Air Laws.*”

Nicole Scouras, “*Teenage Pregnancy in Erie County: A Public Health Problem.*” Nicole is currently a medical student at the University at Buffalo.

Henry Sinclair, M.B.B.S., “*Proposal Addressing Poor Utilization of Prenatal Care in Erie County, New York.*”

M.S. in Epidemiology

Alex Ho, “*Association of Environmental Lead Exposure and Periodontal Disease.*” Committee members included: Drs. **John Vena**, **Christopher Sempos** and **Robert Genco**. Alex is currently a data manager/statistician in the Department of Oral Biology at the University at Buffalo.

Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Community Health

Giovanni Misciagna, M.D., “*Biomarkers of Exposure to Dietary Carbohydrates with Applications to Some Chronic Digestive Disease.*” Committee members included: Drs. **Jo Freudenheim**, **Richard Donahue**, **Paola Muti**, **Maurizio Trevisan**. Giovanni is head of the Laboratorio di Epidemiologia e Biostatistica, IRRCCS S. De Bellis Hospital for Gastrointestinal Diseases in Italy.

The following students successfully completed all degree requirements for **June 2003** degree conferral.

M.P.H

Jacquelyn Andula, R.N., “*A Disproportionate Burden: An Investigation of HIV/AIDS in Latinas in Buffalo, New York.*” Jackie is a public health nurse at the Erie County Health Department.

Keshani Bhushan, “*Childhood Obesity in Erie County.*”

Jillian Karr, “*Congenital Malformations in New York State: A Public Health Analysis.*”

Kari Kufel, “*Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci: Rational for the Implementation of a Uniform Surveillance System in Erie County, New York.*” Kari is currently a staff assistant in the Department of SPM.

Dana Olszewski, “*Examination of Increased Call Volume to Emergency Medical Services in Buffalo, New York.*” Dana has been accepted to the University at Buffalo School of Medicine for Fall 2003.

Elena Sempos, M.D., “*Childhood Mortality Due to Drowning in the United States.*” Elena is accepted a position as physician at the VA Medical Center.

Juan Torres, “*Combating the Impact of Diabetes on the Hispanic Population of New York State: A Look at Possible Interventions.*” Juan has accepted a position as research technician at the Department of Family Medicine, University at Buffalo.

M.S. in Epidemiology

Edith Williams, “*Where’s the Kale? Environmental Racism and Availability of Fruit and Vegetables.*” Committee members included: Drs. **Carlos Crespo** (major), **Christopher Sempos** and **Ellen Smit**. Edith will continue her studies in the Ph.D. Program in Epidemiology and Community Health in the Department of SPM.

Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Community Health

Matthew Bonner, Ph.D., “*Environmental Exposures in Early Life and the Risk of Breast Cancer.*” Committee members included: Drs. **Jo Freudenheim**, (major), **John Vena** and Peter Rogerson. Matt was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship from the National Cancer Institute effective August 1.

Anne Deutsch, Ph.D., “*Outcomes and Reimbursement of Inpatient Rehabilitation Services for Medicare Beneficiaries with Stroke and Hip Fracture.*” Committee members included: Drs. **Maurizio Trevisan** (major), John Naughton, Carl Granger and Roger Fiedler. Anne was awarded a postdoctoral research fellow at the Institute of Health Services Research and Policy Studies at Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine.

Kimberly Perez, Ph.D., “*Urogenital and Reproductive Outcomes in Men Prenatally Exposed to Diethylstilbestrol.*” Committee members included: Drs. **Jean Wactawski-Wende** (major), **Kirsten Moysich**, **John Vena**, Linda Titus-Ernstoff and Elizabeth Hatch. Kim is currently data analyst/programmer at the Biostatistics and Epidemiology Division, Department of Community and Family Medicine at Dartmouth College.

American Public Health Association

The 131st Annual Meeting and Exposition of the American Public Health Association entitled *Behavior, Lifestyle and Social Determinants of Health* will be held November 15-19

in San Francisco. For information and reservations visit the web at www.apha.org/meetings.

Attention Students

RPCI will offer a course on the Responsible Conduct of Research (RPN 541 Reg. No. 200524) taught by Arthur Michalek, Ph.D. and Craig Johnson. The course will be held on Mondays from 4-5 p.m. in Room 404 Research Studies Center.

New Arrivals



Congratulations to:

Horran Cameron and **Edith Williams**, parents of Theda born April 10 weighing 8 lbs.