

SPM NEWS

Department of Social & Preventive Medicine

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

<http://phhp.buffalo.edu/spm>

Fall 2003

Marcia Wopperer, editor

The Director's Corner

I am delighted to accept the position of Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine and I look forward to the opportunities this presents. With input from the Education Committee, we intend to begin work on three major initiatives that will help to strengthen our graduate programs in epidemiology and public health.

We have already begun work to develop, improve and enhance graduate program policies. To engender a more transparent decision-making process, we propose to incorporate these policies into both the Graduate Student Handbook and a new Policy and Procedures Handbook for faculty.

With input and support from Drs. Trevisan, Freudenheim and the Education Committee, we will explore the efficacy of different recruitment strategies. Our initial goal is to expand the catchment area for recruitment to engage students from across the nation and to increase diversity in the student body. We are interested in developing more "evidence-based" guidelines regarding the most effective recruitment strategies to promote our graduate programs nationally and internationally. I recently returned from the American Public Health Association meeting in San Francisco where our recruitment booth generated much interest in our Ph.D. program despite the presence of other strong schools of public health.

Finally, with participation of the Education Committee, we will evaluate the current curriculum. We propose to expand the latitude and robustness of the curriculum. This approach should promote the following benefits: to enhanced attractiveness of our program to prospective masters and doctoral students, to expand opportunities for collaboration

and research by involving professors from other disciplines, and to augment our potential to submit

applications for clinical research career development training grants.

There is much work to be done in this upcoming year.

- *Carl Li, M.D., M.P.H.*

New Grants

Carlos Crespo, Ph.D. recently received two grants from the National Cancer Institute: a three-year \$167,975 planning grant entitled "*The University of Puerto Rico-Roswell Park Cancer Institute Partnership*" to coordinate cancer epidemiology research to develop career opportunities for minority researchers; and a two-year \$100,000 grant entitled "*Diet and Cancer in Puerto Rican Men*" to study the relationship of legume intakes and prostate cancer in Puerto Rican men. Co-investigators include Drs. **Ellen Smit**, **Christopher Sempos**, **Jo Freudenheim**, **Paola Muti** and **Susan McCann**.

Jo Freudenheim, Ph.D. received funding from the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Breast Cancer Research Program for a *Breast Center of Excellence* to examine several aspects of the molecular epidemiology and mechanisms of alcohol consumption in the etiology of breast cancer. Jo is principal investigator for the \$400,000 UB sub-contract, Peter Shields, M.D. is principal investigator for the \$5.2 million Center.

Janice Hastrup, Ph.D., M.S., ('95) was awarded a two-year \$157,000 grant entitled "*Beliefs About Gene-Behavior Interactions in Disease*" from the National Cancer Institute. The goals of the study are

to assess beliefs about both family health history and the usefulness of health behaviors in changing risk among adolescents and their families, and to evaluate the usefulness of a brief educational intervention to enhance understanding of gene-behavior interaction. **Michael Cummings**, Ph.D. is sponsor, consultants include Drs. Joseph Bauer and **Gary Giovino**.

Lisa Rafalson, M.S., was awarded a two-year \$37,170 supplemental grant entitled *"The Epidemiology of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus"* from DHHS-NIH to investigate the association between markers of inflammation and incident Type 2 diabetes mellitus among a cohort of 2,700 participants who were originally seen beginning in 1996. **Richard Donahue**, Ph.D. is principal investigator of the grant.

John Violanti, Ph.D. was awarded a \$1.75 million grant from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to conduct one of the first large-scale studies on how the stress of police work affects an officer's physical health. This study will gather information on a number of stress and health indicators from 700 City of Buffalo police officers. Co-investigators include Drs. **Maurizio Trevisan**, **Joan Dorn** and **Jean Wactawski-Wende**.



The following presentations by faculty and students include:

Michael Bloom, M.S., a poster entitled *"Polychlorinated Biphenyls and Thyroid Function Biomarkers in a Sample of Western New York State Anglers and Sportsmen"* presented at the Innovative Research Topics Session of the APHA Environment Section at the 131st Annual Meeting held in San Francisco, November 15-19.

Carlos Crespo, Ph.D., invited presentations entitled *"Challenges and Barriers to Research Using Minority Participants"* at the Colloquium at the American College of Sports Medicine held in San Francisco on May 29; *"Hormone Replacement Therapy in Women With Diabetes"* at the American Diabetes Association Annual Meeting held in New Orleans on June 16; and *"Physical Activity and Obesity Among Hispanics"* at

the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, NIH, held in Bethesda, July 31-August 1.

Bernadette Hoppe, J.D., M.A., a roundtable discussion on *"HIPAA and Community Based Organizations"* at the National Perinatal Association Conference held in Bethesda, October 23-25.

Paola Muti, M.D., an invited presentation entitled *"Metabolic Factors, Genetics and Cancer Etiology and Survival"* at the 117th Advanced Course on Signal Transduction and Communication in Cancer Cells at the International School of Medical Sciences in Erice, Italy, October 24-29.

Jennifer Reschke a poster presentation entitled *"The Association of Nonclinical Factors to the Success of Vaginal Birth After Cesarean"* at the New York State Perinatal Association Conference held in Albany, June 19-20.

Holger Schunemann, M.D., Ph.D. invited presentations entitled *"Effective Guideline Implementing Strategies"* at the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP) 2003 Conference on Antithrombotic and Thrombolytic Therapy: Evidence-Based Guidelines held in Phoenix on September 12; *"Antioxidant Vitamins and Pulmonary Function in Individuals with Airway Disease"* at the European Respiratory Society held in Vienna in September; *"The Impact of Framing on Decision Making"* at the XI Cochrane Colloquium held in Barcelona in October; and *"A Randomized Multi-Center Trial to Compare Utility Elicitation Techniques With and Without Hypothetical Health States"* at the International Society for Quality of Life Research, ISOQOL Meeting held in Prague in November. Holger was also an invited tutor for the Cochrane Workshop on Grading the Quality of Evidence at the XI Cochrane Colloquium, held in Barcelona, October 25-30; and invited faculty for the Clinical Significance Group at the International Conference held in Phoenix in October.

Names in the News



Joan Dorn, Ph.D. was promoted to associate professor effective July 2003.

Barbara Fuhrman, **Qiang Li**, **Lisa Rafalson**, **Jennifer Reschke** and **Hamed Rezairshiraz** successfully passed their prelim examinations in May 2003.

Kirsten Moysich, Ph.D. was promoted to associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology, RPCI effective October 2003.

New Students

M.P.H.

Kwabena Koakye, B.A. Biology, Buffalo State College.

Kostantinos Botsoglou, B.A. Economics, University at Buffalo.

Ranjan Chanda, M.B.B.S., All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Ranjan is currently a PGY III resident in the General Preventive Medicine Residency Program at the University at Buffalo.

Margaret Eberl, M.D., University at Buffalo. Margaret is currently a PGY III resident in the General Preventive Medicine Residency Program Cancer Track at the University at Buffalo.

Monique Emdin, B.S. Occupational Therapy, University at Buffalo. Monique is also a student in the Law School at the University of Buffalo.

Bethany Gilbert, B.A. Sociology/History, SUNY College at Geneseo. Bethany is also a student in the Law School at the University of Buffalo.

Sudha Gowravaram, M.B.B.S., Osmania Medical College.

Rebecca Heuer, B.A. Biomedical Sciences/Anthropology, University at Buffalo.

Cheryl Higbee, B.A. Psychology, SUNY College at Geneseo. Cheryl is currently a data manager at RPCI.

Hyungsun Kim, B. of Pharmacy, Sookmyung Women's University.

Sarah Klein, B.S. Biology, Canisius College.

Melissa Kosinski, B.S. Recombinant Gene Technology, SUNY/Fredonia.

Peter McNeela, M.D., University at Buffalo.

Jamie Muhleisen, B.S. Biological Sciences, University of New England.

Gabriela Neagoe, M.D., University of Medicine and Pharmacy Carol Davila. Gabriela is currently a PGY

II resident in the General Preventive Medicine Residency Program at the University at Buffalo.

Wendy Radlich, B.S. Medical Technology, University at Buffalo.

Michael Ray, B.S. Health Science, SUNY College at Brockport.

Ann Reynolds, M.D., University at Buffalo. Ann is currently a fellow in Neonatology at the University Medical Resident Services.

Abhishek Sawant, M.B.B.S., Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College.

Gerald Stevens, D.C. New York Chiropractic College. Gerald is currently an instructor at the New York Institute of Massage.

Sarah Tracy-Watkins, B.A. Dual Degree in Sociology and Legal Studies, University at Buffalo.

Ji Yu, B.A. Psychology, University at Buffalo.

Margaret Zambon, B.S. Biology, SUNY College at Geneseo.

M.S. in Epidemiology

Andrea Hughes, B.A. Psychology and Health and Human Services, University at Buffalo.

Christine Murekeyisoni, B.S. Forensic Chemistry, Buffalo State College.

Sridhar Rachala, M.B.B.S., Osmania Medical College.

Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Community Health

Theodore Brasky, M.S. Public Health, University of Massachusetts – Amherst.

Xueya Cai, B. of Medicine, Shanghai Medical University.

Austin Miller, M.S. Industrial Administration, Carnegie Mellon University. Austin is a market research manager at M&T Bank.

Marco Muniz, D.O. New York College of Osteopathic Medicine; and M.P.H. University of Michigan School of Public Health.

Youngju Pak, B.S. Statistics, Young-Nam University.

Michael Yeh, B.S. Biology, SUNY at Stony Brook.

New Graduates

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

M.S. in Epidemiology

Dina Itani, "*Colorectal Cancer Screening: Compliance, Knowledge and Attitudes Among Residents of Erie and Niagara Counties, New York State.*" Committee members include: **Martin Mahoney** (major), **Andrew Hyland** and **K. Michael Cummings**. Dina has accepted a position as a field investigator for foodborne outbreaks at the Vermont State Health Department.

Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Community Health

Marcelo Araujo, "*Methodological Considerations in the Evaluation of Periodontal Disease and Their Impact on the Exploration of Its Links With Other Diseases.*" Committee members include: Drs. **Maurizio Trevisan** (major), **Jean Wactawski-Wende**, **Jorn Dorn** and Robert Genco. Marcelo is a faculty member at the Universidade Guarulhos School of Dental Medicine in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Jill Murphy, "*Reducing Barriers to Smoking Cessation in a Medicaid Population: The Medicaid Stop Smoking Intervention Study (MEDASSIST).*" Committee members include: Drs. **Martin Mahoney** (major), **K. Michael Cummings**, and **Andrew Hyland**. Jill is currently an assistant professor at SUNY/Cortland.

Graduate Student Association

The Graduate Student Association of the Department of SPM elected new officers for the 2003-2004 academic year: **Hamed Rezaishiraz** (president), **Alison Howe** (vice president), **Kwabena Boakye** (treasurer), **Nav Virk** (secretary and alternate senator) and **Bamidelle Tayo** and **Michael Ray** (alternate senators).

New Arrivals



Congratulations to:

Dr. **Laurene Tumiel-Berhalter** and Art Berhalter, parents of Cole Richard born August 1 weighing 7 lbs. 12 oz.

Drs. **Carlos Crespo** and **Ellen Smit**, parents of Sofia Maryann born October 13 weighing 5 lbs. 11 oz.