

# 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>

June 2004

Marcia Wopperer, editor

### The Director's Corner

Over the past academic year, we accomplished several objectives. The Comprehensive Examination was administered to first-year M.S. and Ph.D. students for the first time in May 2004. The purpose of the Comprehensive Examination is to assess graduate students' knowledge of the concepts in epidemiology and its application and their ability to apply these concepts in epidemiologic research. We would like to thank the Comprehensive Examination Committee for the countless number of person-hours that went into designing and administering the one-day exam.

The department explored several new recruitment strategies and has had success in diversifying student recruitments. We received applications from across the country, including the West Coast. For the upcoming recruiting cycle, we will continue to build on the momentum and pursue new recruitment strategies in order to strengthen our academic program.

For the next academic year, our major initiative is to evaluate the current academic curriculum. With participation of the Education Committee, we will review the current courses and determine areas of improvement. Our goal is to ensure that graduate students gain the appropriate level of competence in the concepts of epidemiology and its application, and gain the skills necessary to conduct epidemiologic research. This approach should promote the following benefits: enhance the attractiveness of our program to prospective master's and doctoral students, expand opportunities for collaboration and research by involving professors from other disciplines, and augment our potential to submit applications for clinical research career development training grants.

We look forward to the cohort of incoming graduate students in August. Please consider dropping by the departmental orientation on August 27 to greet new students.

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

### Department of Biostatistics

The Department of Biostatistics has received approval from the State Education Department to reactivate the graduate program in Statistics at the University at Buffalo. Approval was also granted to change the title of both the M.A. and Ph.D. programs from "Statistics" to "Biostatistics" in order to reflect changes in the curricula. These changes will render the programs more responsive to the education and training needs of its students. The first class of biostatistics students will enroll this fall. Students interested in this new program should contact Dr. Randolph Carter, Graduate Director, at 829-2884 or [rcarter@buffalo.edu](mailto:rcarter@buffalo.edu).

### New Grants

**Christine Ambrosone**, Ph.D., was recently awarded the following grants from the National Cancer Institute:

*"Lung Cancer Molecular Markers by Sex: An Intergroup Study."* Using the infrastructure of the Southwest Oncology Group and the NCI Lung Cancer Intergroup, the aims of this \$426,529 five-year study are to investigate gender differences in lung cancer by assessment of biomarkers in tissue

and blood and risk factor data. Dr. Ambrosone is co-principal investigator.

*“Race and Risk Factors for Early/Aggressive Breast Cancer.”* In a case-control study of African-American and Caucasian Women in New York City, this \$519,900 five-year study will investigate reasons for the earlier age of onset and more aggressive nature of breast cancer among African-American women. Dr. Ambrosone is co-principal investigator.

*“Prospective Study of Breast Cancer Survivorship.”* In a cohort of women newly diagnosed with breast cancer through Kaiser Permanente, the five-year \$1,132,929 study will evaluate the effects of diet, physical activity, and CAM, as well as host and tumor genetic variability in relation to hazard of recurrence. Dr. Ambrosone is the site principal investigator.

**Richard Donahue**, Ph.D. was awarded a three-year \$1,431,000 grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) entitled *“Genetic Markers of CHD in Men and Women”* to examine genetic polymorphisms in several genes related to inflammation and endothelial function and their role in myocardial infarction.

**Kristen Moysich**, Ph.D. was awarded a \$140,875 three-year grant from the National Cancer Institute entitled *“Use of Stored Bone Marrow Samples for Pharmacogenetic Studies of Acute Myeloid Leukemia.”* This research will help to determine the appropriateness of stored bone marrow samples from large biological specimen banks for pharmacogenetic studies of hematological malignancies.

**Paola Muti**, M.D. received the following grants:

*“Exploratory Study of Long-Term Prognostic Significance of Fasting Glucose in Primary Breast Cancer”* from the National Cancer Institute. The \$347,130 two-year grant will analyze indices of glucose metabolism as predictors of breast cancer recurrence and mortality in a cohort of 20,743 women.

*“Endogenous Hormones and Premenopausal Breast Cancer Risk”* from the National Cancer Institute. The \$2,040,000 three-year grant will analyze the biological interaction between IGF pattern and steroid hormones in the determinism of breast cancer risk in premenopausal women.

*“Endogenous 6-Hydroxymelatonin Excretion and Subsequent Risk of Breast Cancer: A Prospective Study”* from the U.S. Army Medical Research and Material Command Breast Cancer Research Program. This study will analyze the association of melatonin metabolism in the determinism of breast cancer risk.

*“Estrogen Metabolism and Prostate Cancer Risk: A Prospective Study”* from the U.S. Army Medical Research and Material Command Breast Cancer

Research Program. The \$519,374 three-year grant will analyze the etiological role of estrogen metabolism in prostate cancer risk.

**Ellen Smit**, Ph.D. is principal investigator for the Buffalo Clinical Center of the *Nutritional Biomarker Study* awarded by the Women’s Health Initiative Clinical Coordinating Center at NIH. The aim of the study is to collect objective measures of dietary intake for use in regression calibration models in the Women’s Health Initiative. **Jean Wactawski-Wende** is Co-PI.

**Jean Wactawski-Wende**, Ph.D., was awarded the following grants:

Program Director/Consultant for a five-year renewal of the *“Osteoporosis Education Grant”* from the New York State Department of Health. This grant will help to promote education on osteoporosis in New York State, with the intent to prevent further bone loss and fracture through education and awareness.

Principal investigator for a five-year National Cancer Institute Canada grant entitled *“MAP3 RCT of Aromitase Inhibitor +/-Cox-2 Inhibitor vs. Placebo for Prevention of Breast Cancer and Chronic Disease in High Risk Postmenopausal Women.”* **Maurizio Trevisan** is Co-PI.

Co-investigator for a one-year \$100,000 NIDCR grant entitled *“Salivary Markers to Predict Alveolar Bone Loss.”*

## Society for Epidemiologic Research

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) was held in Salt Lake City, June 15-18. **Jo Freudenheim**, Ph.D. was selected as one of four faculty members with expertise in epidemiology and biostatistics to conduct the Student Workshop on *Epidemiology Methods*. The workshop was held immediately preceding the annual meeting.

Presentations were made by the following SPM faculty, students and alumni.

**Oelisoa Mirelle Andriankaja**, D.D.S., Ph.D., *“The Association Between Periodontal Disease and Risk of Non-Fatal Myocardial Infarction Among Smokers and Non-Smokers”*

**Elisa Bandera**, Ph.D., ('95) *“Reproducibility of Systematic Literature Reviews on Food, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Endometrial Cancer”*

**Matthew Bonner**, Ph.D., ('03) *“Radon, Glutathione-S-Transferase M1 and Lung Cancer in U.S. Women”*

**Chao-ru Chen, Ph.D.**, "Gynecological Diseases Related to Inflammation of the Ovarian Epithelium and Risk of Ovarian Cancer" (poster)

**Daikwon Han, Ph.D.**, "Effects of Lifetime Weight Gain on Breast Cancer Risk" (poster)

**Danelle Lobdell, Ph.D.**, ('01) "Recruitment and Retention Issues for a Large Longitudinal Study of Children's Environmental Health" and "Drinking Water Arsenic and Perinatal Outcomes" (poster)

**Jennifer Reschke, M.S.**, "Factors Associated With Attempt of Trial of Labor (TOL) and Success of Vaginal Birth After Cesarean (VBAC) in Low Risk Women" (poster)

**Enrique Schisterman, Ph.D.**, ('99) "Research Hurdles Complicating the Analysis of Infertility Treatment and Child Health"

**Saverio Stranges, Ph.D.**, "Race, Alcohol Consumption and Liver Enzymes in a Population-Based Study" (poster)

**Edith Williams, M.S.**, "Where's the Kale? Environmental Racism and the Availability of Fruits and Vegetables"

**Tiejian Wu, Ph.D.**, ('99) "Assessment of Health Risk Behaviors Among Teens in an Appalachian Community" (poster) and "Relationship of Low Birth Weight With Multiple Metabolic Syndrome in U.S., Preadolescents" (poster)

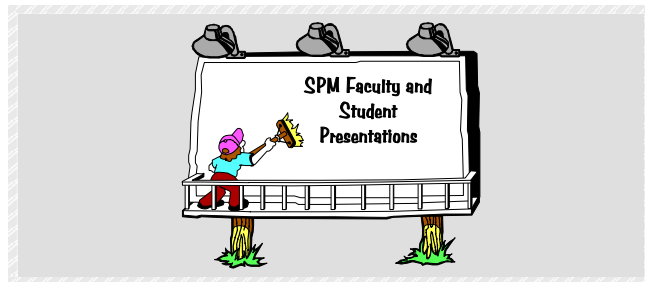
## American Association for Cancer Research

The 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) was held March 27-31 in Orlando, FL. Presenters from the Department of SPM include:

**Julie Baker, M.S., R. N.**, poster presentations entitled "Regular Use of Aspirin or Acetaminophen and Risk of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma" and "Associations Between Black Tea and Coffee Consumption and Risk of Lung Cancer Among Current and Former Smokers."

**Madalena Barba, Ph.D.**, "Lifetime Total and Beverage Specific Alcohol Intake and Prostate Cancer Risk."

**Susan McCann, Ph.D.**, "Dietary Intake of Conjugated Linoleic Acids and Risk of Pre- and Postmenopausal Breast Cancer, Western New York Exposure and Breast Cancer Study (WEB Study)."



The following presentations by faculty and students include:

**Christine Ambrosone, Ph.D.**, "Molecular Epidemiology to Evaluate Cancer Etiology and Prognosis" at the American Cancer Society meeting held in Atlanta, GA in January; "Metabolic Variability in Cancer Etiology and Outcomes" at the University of Toronto in March; and "Gene-Nutrient Interactions in Cancer Risk Modifications" at the Canadian Society for Clinical Nutrition 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting held in April.

**Julie Baker, M.S., R.N.**, "Regular Use of Aspirin or Acetaminophen and Risk of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma" poster presentation at the UB Sigma Xi Student Research Competition held on April 21 at the Center for Tomorrow;.

**Daikwon Han, Ph.D.**, "Assessing the Variability of Risk Surfaces Using Residential History Data in a Case Control Study of Breast Cancer" at the Annual Meeting of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, New York, NY; and an invited talk on "GIS, Medical Geography, and Spatial Epidemiology" at Kyung Hee University, Seoul, Korea.

**Susan McCann, Ph.D.** "Chocolate Consumption, Oxidative Stress, and Antioxidant Capacity" at the Experimental Biology Annual Meeting 2004 held in Washington, DC in April.

**Marco Muniz, D.O.**, "No Leisure-Time Physical Activity is Lower in Households With a Dog or Cat Than Among Households Without Any Pets," poster presentation at the International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA) 2004 Annual Meeting held in Washington, DC on June 12.

**Heather Ochs-Balcom**, "Pulmonary Function and Abdominal Obesity" at the Annual Meeting of the American Thoracic Society held in Orlando, FL in May.

**John Violanti, Ph.D.**, "Police Fatigue: Physiological, Psychological, and Operational Consequences" at the National Institute of Justice Conference on

Extended Work Hours held at the University of Maryland, School of Nursing, March 31-May 1.

**Roger Priore**, Ph.D., poster presentation entitled “*Á Bayesian 2-Stage Phase II Design With Historical Controls*” at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Toronto, August 9, 2004.

**Holger Schünemann**, M.D., Ph.D., “*Minimally Clinically Important Differences (MCID) in COPD: Quality of Life IV (Chronic Respiratory Disease Questionnaire)*” at the MCID Workshop held in Miami, FL, January 12-14; and “*Asthma Guidelines: The Importance of Evidence-Based Medicine*” at the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) meeting held March 23.

## Resident Scholarly Exchange Day

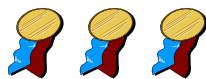
The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Resident Scholarly Exchange Day was held April 29<sup>th</sup> in the Biomedical Education Building Atrium. Research conducted by residents in the Graduate Medical Dental Education Consortium of Buffalo were presented providing participants with valuable feedback from faculty researchers and fellow residents. The following posters were presented by the General Preventive Medicine residents: **Elie Akl**, M.D., “*A Survey of Internal Medicine Residents and Faculty About the Duration of Attendings’ Inpatient Rotations,*” **Margaret Eberl**, M.D., “*Unsuspected Klinefelter Syndrome Diagnosed,*” **Gabriela Neagoe**, M.D., “*EBM User and Practitioner Models for Graduate Medical Education: What Do Residents’ Prefer?*” and **Annette Sunga**, M.D., “*Hormone Therapy Prescribing in Primary Care.*”

## General Preventive Medicine Residency Program

Drs. **Rajwinder Dhillon** and **Nalini Packianathan** will begin their PGY III in the General Preventive Medicine Residency Program on July 1. Dr. Dhillon received his M.D. from the Universidad Eugenio Maria de Hostos, Dominican Republic in 1998. Dr. Pathianathan received her M.D. from the University at Buffalo in 2002. They began their residencies in the Combined Program in Internal Medicine/General Preventive Medicine in July 2002.

**Annette Sunga**, M.D. will complete the General Preventive Medicine Residency Program Cancer Training Track on July 1. Dr. Sunga will join the clinical faculty at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and pursue an academic career with an emphasis on cancer control research teaching and practice.

## Honors and Awards



**Elie Akl**, M.D., M.P.H. received the *Thomas F. Frawley Research Fellowship* from UB; and is the recipient of the *2004 Evidence Based Medicine/Quality Improvement Award* from the Office of Graduate Medical Education at UB. Dr. Akl was also awarded an Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine (ATPM) Fellowship supporting his three-month rotation at the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ).



**Julie Baker**, M.S., R.N. was one of 10 winners nationwide to receive the Woodrow Wilson-Johnson & Johnson Dissertation Grant in Women’s Health for her dissertation entitled “*Impact of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Disaster on Reproductive Beliefs and Decisions.*” Winners were chosen on the basis of scholarship and the importance of their project’s contribution to the broader field of women’s health. The grant includes a stipend of \$6,000.



**Michael Bloom**, Ph.D. was awarded a postdoctoral research fellowship from the Division of Epidemiology, Statistics and Prevention Research, National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development. He will begin his fellowship on July 1.



**John Steven Cramer**, M.D. received the Bronze Star for Operation Iraqi Freedom for providing medical support to the 487 Air Expeditionary Wing.



**Richard Donahue**, Ph.D. received the *Sustained Achievement Award* from the *UB Exceptional Scholar Program* in recognition of outstanding achievements in scholarly activity.



**Jo Freudenheim**, Ph.D. was named *University at Buffalo Distinguished Professor*.





Drs. **Jo Freudenheim**, **Maurizio Trevisan** and **Jean Wactawski-Wende** were honored at a dinner hosted by President Simpson for 40 UB faculty who have received over two million dollars of grant funding over the past year.





**Daikwon Han**, Ph.D. was a finalist for the Nystrom Dissertation Competition of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) based on his paper “*Geographic Clustering of Residence in Early Life and Risk of Breast Cancer*”


presented at the Centennial Meetings of the AAG in Philadelphia.


 **Alison Howe, M.S.**, won Second Place for her poster entitled “*Progress Report on Asthma and Autoimmune Disease in Two Communities in Cheektowaga, NY: The Impact of Environmental Contamination*” at the UB Environmental and Society Institute’s Colloquium held at the Center for the Arts on April 16.



 **Andrew Hyland, Ph.D.** was awarded the *Public Policy Award* from the Erie/Niagara Tobacco Free Coalition.


 **Silvana Lawvere, Ph.D.** was awarded a three-year \$124,000 American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellowship for her dissertation entitled “*Efficacy of Herbal Supplements for Smoking Cessation*.” The fellowship was one of eight projects funded in the Eastern Region (NY/NJ) by ACS.




 **Jill Murphy, Ph.D.** is the 2004 recipient of the *Saxon Graham Award* for excellence in epidemiology and community health.

 **Sylvia Quick, Michael Leonard, Elie Akl and Sara Sinclair** were nominated for “*Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities*.”

 **Hamed Rezaishiraz, M.D.**, received a *Mark Diamond Research Award* from the Graduate Student Association for his dissertation entitled “*NICotine FREE Cigarettes as Tools for Smoking Cessation (NICFREE)*.” The award includes \$1,200 to help defray expenses directly related to the collection of data for his dissertation.

  **Holger Schünemann, M.D., Ph.D.** received the *New Investigator Award* from the International Society for Quality of Life Research, 2003; and the *Sustained Achievement Award* from the *UB Exceptional Scholar Program* in recognition of outstanding achievements in scholarly activity.


 **Ellen Smit, Ph.D.** received the *Young Investigator’s Award* from the *UB Exceptional Scholar Program* in recognition of outstanding achievements in scholar activity.


   **Annette Sunga, M.D., M.P.H.** received one of three national *Cancer Control Career Development Awards for Primary Care Physicians*. This award, which includes progressive stipends of \$60,000, \$65,000 and \$70,000 per year, supports early career primary care physicians who are pursuing an academic career with an emphasis on

cancer control research teaching and practice. The award will support dedicated research time for Dr. Sunga to develop the research project entitled “*Aberrant Crypt Foci (ACF) Prevalence Among Selected Colorectal Cancer (CRC) Risk Groups*.” Mentors include Drs. **Martin Mahoney, James Marshall and Mary Reid**.

Dr. Sunga was also selected to receive a \$1,000 *Pfizer Scholar-in-Training Award* to support attendance at The Second Annual American Association of Cancer Research International Conference in Cancer Preventive Research held in Phoenix, AZ, October 26-30, 2003.

She also won Honorable Mention for her poster entitled “*Early Detection and Prevention of Lung Cancer: What Do Primary Care Physicians Know?*” at the meeting of the American College of Preventive Medicine in Orlando, FL, February 18-22. Her poster was among the presentations prepared by residents in Cancer Prevention tracks sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

 **Edith Williams, M.S.**, won First Place for her poster entitled “*Where’s the Kale? Availability of Fruits and Vegetables in Two Racially Dissimilar Communities*” at the UB Environmental and Society Institute’s Colloquium held at the Center for the Arts on April 16.

 **Brian Wrotniak** received a research award from the American Physical Therapy Association.

## Names in the News



**Elie Akl, M.D., M.P.H.** was elected Member of the Governing Council of the Association of Preventive Medicine Residents (APMR), and the Council’s Liaison to the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine.

**Terri Black** was elected President of the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN).

**Linda Duffy, Ph.D.** has accepted a position as health science administrator at the Office of Review, NCRR/NIH effective July 2004.

**Andrew Hyland, Ph.D.**, was invited plenary at the Norwegian Tobacco Conference held in April 2004.

**Michael Leonard, M.D.** was recently appointed Pediatric Co-Director for the National Research Service Award (NRSA) Training Program. This agency funds Primary Care Research Fellows from

the Departments of Pediatrics, Family Medicine and Internal Medicine.

**Jian Liu**, Ph.D., ('02) has accepted a position as assistant professor at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario.

**Martin Mahoney**, M.D., Ph.D. has been appointed member of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Task Force on Linkages to Practice Improvement. The charge of the task force is to develop a plan for integrating and taking forward the domains of research, clinical practice guidelines, CME, and quality improvement. Dr. Mahoney is also member of the Research Advocacy Group for the AAFP Commission on Clinical Politics and Research; and is the AAFP liaison to the Community-Acquired Pneumonia Work Group to the AMA Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement.

**Arthur Michalek**, Ph.D., has been appointed to the NIH panel to develop a five-year strategic plan for the National Center for Complimentary and Alternative Medicine. Dr. Michalek was also co-chairman for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Association for Cancer Education in Caen, France. He presented an invited paper as well as chaired a session on clinical research and cancer education.

**Kirsten Moysich**, Ph.D. was appointed panel member for the National Cancer Institute's Specialized Program of Research Excellence for ovarian cancer, leukemia, lymphoma, and head and neck cancer. Dr. Moysich was also appointed to the California Breast Cancer Research Program Etiology and Preventive Review Panel.

**Paola Muti**, M.D., has been promoted to full professor effective July 1.

**Michael Noe**, M.D., M.P.H. was appointed Member of the New York State Council on Graduate Medicine Education effective April 2004.

**Holger Schönemann**, M.D., Ph.D., was promoted to Associate Director, Division of General Internal Medicine in the Department of Medicine effective June 2004. Dr. Schönemann was also elected to Fellowship in the American College of Chest Physicians (FCCP), is the Associate Editor of Evidence Based Medicine and the American College of Physicians Journal Club, and is editor of the Chest supplement on the Seventh American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP) Conference on Antithrombotic and Thrombolytic Therapy: Evidence-Based Guidelines, 2004.

## American Public Health Association

The American Public Health Association 132<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting and Exposition entitled "*Public Health and Environment*" will be held November 6-10, 2004 in Washington, DC. Special savings are available if you register before August 27. Book your reservations online at [www.apha.org/meetings](http://www.apha.org/meetings) and receive instant confirmation! APHA membership applications are also available online.

## Collaborative MBA/MPH Program

The School of Management and the School of Public Health and Health Professions at the University at Buffalo have established a collaborative program leading to master's degrees in Business Administration and Public Health (MBA and MPH). The purpose is to facilitate an integrated course of study that prepares students for high-level management careers in health care organizations and agencies. The program can be completed in three years, with a total of 97 credit hours. Students may complete the collaborative program one semester to one year less than would be required to pursue the degrees separately. Students completing the program will be awarded both the MBA and MPH degrees.

For more information, please contact: Dr. Dennis Bertram, Director, MPH Program, School of Public Health and Health Professions, Office of the Dean, Stockton Kimball Tower Rm. 419, 3435 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214-3079, Phone: 829-3434 x 278.

## Online Courses

SPM 530 Administrative Theory and Practice for Public Health Practitioners will be offered online in the Fall 2004 semester. It will be in an asynchronous format where students can access the course on *UBLearns* from their home computers, or any computer connected to the internet, at days and times most convenient to their schedules. Dr. Joseph Lyons will meet with students enrolling in the course on Friday, September 3 to discuss format and procedures. Interested students should contact Dr. Lyons at [jlyons1200@aol.com](mailto:jlyons1200@aol.com)

SPM 539 Introduction to Health Economics will be offered via *UBLearns* in the Spring 2005 semester. NOTE: These courses will be offered only in the *UBLearns* format the 2004-2005 academic year.

## New Course for Spring 2005

**SPM 626 Arthropods of Public Health Importance** (3 credits) will be offered for the first time in Spring 2005. The course, taught by Wayne Gall, Ph.D., Regional Entomologist of the New York State Department of Health, is intended for students seeking a career in public health and medical science who have no background in entomology and arachnology. Considerable attention will be given to mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile virus, and tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease. Topics covered will also demonstrate the broader significance of arthropods to human health and well-being, ranging from arthropod venoms and arthropod-induced allergies, to entomophobia and forensic entomology.

## New Graduates

The following students successfully completed all degree requirements established by the Department of SPM and the University at Buffalo for June 2004 degree conferral. Congratulations!

### M.P.H.

**Elie Akl**, M.D., “*Systematic Review of the Effect of Different Presentations of Empirical Evidence About Health.*” Mentors: Drs. **Holger Schünemann** (major) and **Carl Li**. Dr. Akl will complete his PGY IV in the General Preventive Medicine Residency Program at UB in October 2004.

**Steven Cosme**, “*Health Care and Cultural Sensitivity in Buffalo’s East Side Community.*” Mentors: Drs. **Dennis Bertram** (major) and **Carl Li**.

**Kelly Forrest**, “*Evaluation of the Air National Guard Weight Management Program.*” Mentors: Drs. **Dennis Bertram** (major) and **Carl Li**. Kelly is a Medical Services Craftsman of the US Air Force/NYS Air National Guard.

**Laura Slawiak**, “*A Review of Historical Data: Providing the Most Optimal Emergency Ambulance Coverage.*” Mentors: Drs. **Dennis Bertram** (major) and **Carl Li**.

**Annette Sunga**, M.D., “*Cross-sectional Survey of Primary Care Physician Attitudes, Knowledge and Beliefs Regarding the Influenza Vaccine.*” Mentors: Drs. **Martin Mahoney** (major) and **Carl Li**. Dr. Sunga

will join the clinical faculty at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and pursue an academic career with an emphasis on cancer control research teaching and practice.

### M.S. in Epidemiology

**Geroncio Fajardo**, M.D., “*A Study of the Relationship Between Blood Lead Levels Among Children Who Live Near Franklin Slag Pile Site and the Distance of the Child’s Residence from the Site.*” Mentors: Drs. **John Vena** (major), **Christopher Sempos** and **Carl Li**. Dr. Fajardo is an epidemiologist in the Division of Environmental Health Epidemiology at the Department of Health in Harrisburg, PA.

**Sara Lawrence**, “*Sleep Quality Among Individuals Affected by the Chernobyl Accident.*” Mentors: Drs. **Kirsten Moysich** (major), **Beth Moscato** and **Jean Wactawski-Wende**. Sara has accepted a position as a health analyst at the Research Triangle Institute International in Research Triangle Park, NC.

### Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Community Health

**Oelisoa Mireille Andriankaja**, D.D.S., “*The Association Between Periodontal Disease and Risk of Non-Fatal Myocardial Infarction in Smokers and Non-Smokers.*” Mentors: Drs. **Maurizio Trevisan** (major), **Robert Genco**, **Joan Dorn** and **Jacek Dmochowski**.

**Michael Bloom**, Ph.D., “*Organochlorine Compounds and Thyroid Function in WNY State Angler and Their Partners/Spouses.*” Mentors: Drs. **John Vena** (major), **Kirsten Moysich** and **James Olson**. Dr. Bloom was awarded a postdoctoral research fellowship from the Division of Epidemiology, Statistics and Prevention Research, National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).

**Chao-ru Chen**, Ph.D., “*Reproductive Factors and Risk of Ovarian Cancer – Are Controls Really Controls?*” Mentors: Drs. **Arthur Michalek** (major), **Germaine Buck**, **Kirsten Moysich** and **Raj Natarajan**. Chao-ru has joined the Women’s Health Initiative Clinical Center as a research support specialist.

**Dai Imamura**, Ph.D., “*In-Treatment Prediction Models for Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome in Controlled Ovarian Hyperstimulation Using Neural Network.*” Mentors: Drs. **Jacek Dmochowski** (major), **Brydon Grant**, **Paola Muti** and **Christopher**

**Sempos.** Dr. Imamura is a project statistician at Organon in Osaka, Japan.

**Silvana Lawvere**, Ph.D., *“The Efficacy of St. John’s Wort for Smoking Cessation: A Pilot Study.”*

Mentors: Drs. **Martin Mahoney** (major), **Andrew Hyland** and **Michael Cummings**. Silvana was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship from the American Cancer Society commencing July 1.

**Mine Tezal**, Ph.D., *“Risk Factors for Tooth Loss in Postmenopausal Women.”* Mentors: Drs. **Jean**

**Wactawski-Wende** (major), **Robert Genco**, **Jacek Dmochowski** and Sara Grossi. Dr. Tezal is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Oral Biology at UB.

## New Arrivals



Congratulations to:

Patricia and **Matthew Bonner**, Ph.D. ('03), parents of Liam Matthew born April 13 weighing 7 lbs 7 oz.

Mimi and **Andrew Freedman**, Ph.D. ('95), parents of Kayla Maura Freedman born June 23 weighing 5 lbs. 12 oz.

**Bridget McGuinness** and Dennis Schaefer, parents of Caoilin Brady Schaeffer born May 7 weighing 6 lbs. 7 oz.