

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>

October 2004

Marcia Wopperer, editor

The Director's Corner

We would like to welcome the new graduate students to their first semester in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine. The Department will do everything it can to ensure that you achieve your academic goals over the next several years. Because we teach the principles of continuous quality improvement (CQI, TQM, QI, QC) in the health administration courses, I believe that it is important to implement the spirit of these principles during your academic career in our department. Participation in the Graduate Student Association is one venue through which your academic career can be enhanced. Another is through participation in the Health Sciences Professional Development Club. If there is anything else we can do to improve your academic career, please feel free to contact me, or the President of the Graduate Student Association.


We will also like to welcome a new faculty member, Dr. William Scheider. Dr. Scheider received his M.S. in Nutrition from Cornell University in 1976 and his Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Community Health from the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine in 1994. His major areas of research interest include nutrition, health behavior, environmental epidemiology, and complementary and alternative medicine. Dr. Scheider will teach SPM 551 Epidemiologic Applications to Environmental Health in the Spring semester and also advise MPH students in the completion of their health administration project.


For the next academic year, a major initiative will be an evaluation of the current SPM academic curriculum. With participation of the Education Committee, we will review the current courses and determine areas of improvement. We want to ensure that graduate students gain the appropriate level of competence in the concepts of epidemiology and their application and gain the skills necessary to conduct independent epidemiologic research.


The School of Public Health and Health Professions will have a graduate student recruitment booth at the American Public Health Association (APHA) meeting in Washington, D.C. on November 6-10. I will be the faculty member staffing the booth, please drop by if you attend the APHA meeting. And do not forget to bring any prospective graduate students along with you.


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


Honors and Awards


 Julie Baker, M.S., R.N. and Mary Platek, M.S. are the recipients of the School of Public Health and Health Professions 2004 Francis V. Hanavan Award. The award is presented to students who show great potential for future contributions in the health related professions.


 Isabelle Chughtai-Harvey, M.D. was awarded an assistantship from the Center on Development of Human Services, Research Foundation of SUNY Buffalo State College to conduct research which examines barriers to mammography.

 Gabrielle Foley, M.P.H. was awarded a \$4,000 Presidential/Woodburn Fellowship for the 2004-2005 academic year.

 Nicholas Howard was awarded an Arthur A. Schomberg Fellowship for the 2004-2005 academic year. Schomberg Fellowships are awarded to under-represented minority students who have completed their undergraduate studies with distinction. Recipients receive a full tuition scholarship with stipend.

 Kirsten Moysich, Ph.D. was awarded the School of Public Health and Health Professions Academic Service Award which recognizes the efforts of an alumnus/alumna and his/her long-standing volunteer academic service to one or more academic programs within the School. The award was presented at the J. Warren Perry Lecture on October 1.

 Heather Ochs-Balcom, Ph.D. was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship in Computational Genomic Epidemiology of Cancer from the Division of Genetic and Molecular Epidemiology at Case Western Reserve University and the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center in Cleveland. She began her fellowship on July 15.

 Saverio Stranges won 2nd prize in his age group for UB faculty/staff in the Linda Yalem Run for Safety held on October 3.

Faculty Research

Carlos Crespo, Ph.D. was awarded a two-year \$287,500 grant from the National Institute of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse (NIAAA) entitled "*Alcohol, Mortality and Ethnicity in the U.S.*" The objective is to study the relationship between alcohol, ethnicity and mortality in a multi-ethnic cohort.

Andrew Hyland, Ph.D. was awarded a four-year \$579,468 grant from the National Cancer Institute entitled "*Gene X Environment Factors in Smoking Cessation.*" The study will focus on the dopamine-signaling pathway for the purpose of examining the genetic and environmental factors involved in nicotine dependence using data collected from subjects

who initially participated in the National Cancer Institute's Community Trial for Smoking Cessation (COMMIT). Co-investigators include Drs. K. Michael Cummings, John Cowell, Christine Ambrosone, and Joseph Bauer.

Jean Wactawski-Wende, Ph.D. is the principal investigator for a \$3,199,464 two-year grant from NICHD entitled "Longitudinal Study of Menstrual Cycle and Variation in Oxidative Stress". The major goal of this study is to assess how hormonal variation across the menstrual cycle affects measures of oxidative stress. Drs. Maurizio Trevisan and Richard Browne are co-investigators.

Dr. Wactawski-Wende was also awarded a five-year grant from the National Cancer Institute of Canada entitled "MAP3 Clinical Trial" to assess prevention of breast cancer using aromatase inhibitors +/- Cox-2 inhibitors vs. placebo. Co-investigators include Drs. Maurizio Trevisan and Moeen Abu-Sitta. Dr. Karen Falkner will serve as study coordinator.

Faculty/Student Presentations

Christine Ambrosone, Ph.D. presented a paper entitled "*Uncovering Explanations for Gender Differences in Lung Cancer Risk*" at the Chicago Symposium on Malignancies of the Chest, Head and Neck held in September. Dr. Ambrosone will also present a paper entitled "*Role of Metabolic Variability in Cancer Etiology and Outcomes – Does it Play a Role in Racial Disparities in Breast Cancer?*" at Michigan State University in November.

Tammy Austin-Ketch, M.S. and Susan Bruce, M.S. were selected through a peer-review process to give a podium presentation entitled "*All For One and One For All: The Triumphs and Pitfalls of Community-Based Participatory Research*" at the 3rd Annual International Promoting Global Health Sharing Visions and Strategies Conference held in Topeka, KS, July 10-13. The conference was sponsored by the Washburn University School of Nursing.

Julie Baker, M.S., R.N., presented a paper at the 16th Annual Conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) entitled "*Predictors of Long-Term Psychological Health Among Individuals Affected by the Chernobyl Accident.*" The conference was held in NYC in August.

Renee Brennan, M.S., presented a poster entitled "*Treatment Initiation After Osteoporosis Screening Varies by Skeletal Site of Diagnosis and Disease Severity*" at the 26th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research held in Seattle on October 4.

Margaret Eberl, M.D. will present a poster at the American Society of Human Genetics annual conference in Toronto on October 27 entitled "*Unsuspected Klinefelter Syndrome During Oncologic Work-up: A Case Series.*"

Jo Freudenheim, Ph.D. will present a talk entitled "*Advances in Breast Cancer Epidemiology*" at the University of Alabama, Department of Epidemiology on December 2.

Andrew Hyland, Ph.D. presented a paper entitled "*Consumer Cigarette Purchasing Patterns and Lost Tax Revenue, Erie/Niagara Counties, New York, 2002-2003*" at the 2004 Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco held in Scottsdale, AZ .

Kirsten Moysich, Ph.D. was chair and invited speaker of a session entitled "*Cancer Risk and Radiation Exposure Related to the Chernobyl Power Plant Accident: Population-Based Research in the Former Soviet Union*" at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Frontiers in Cancer Prevention Conference held October 16-20 in Seattle, WA.

Holger Schünemann, M.D., Ph.D. recently gave the following presentations: "*Interpreting the Results of Quality of Life Measures in Clinical Trials: The Clinicians Perspective*" at the International Society for Quality of Life Research (ISOQOL) 2004 Symposium entitled "Stating the Art: Advancing Outcomes Research Methodology and Clinical Applications" held in Boston, June 27-29; "*ACCP Antithrombotic Guidelines*" at the Coalition to Prevent DVT held in Washington on September 16; "*How Guidelines on Antithrombotic Agents are Generated*" at the National Congress of the Italian Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis held in Rome on October 1; "*Do Marker States Help Patients in Valuing Their Own Health*" at the ISOQOL meeting held in Hong Kong on October 19. Holger will also chair a session on "*ACCP Antithrombotic Guidelines*" and give a presentation entitled "*Grading Recommendations: Why Bother?*" at the ACCP/Chest Conference 2004 held in Seattle on October 27; and a presentation entitled "*Grades of Recommendations for Antithrombotic*" at the Antithrombotic Concensus meeting with representatives of the European Society of Cardiology in Paris on November 22. He also served as a facilitator for a workshop entitled "*Cochrane Workshop on Grading the Quality of Evidence*" at the XII Cochrane Colloquium held in Ottawa on October 6.

Bamidele Tayo will present a poster entitled "*Genome-Wide Scan for Angiotensinogen Among Nigerian Families Revealed Evidence of QTL on Chromosomes 1 and 17*" at the 54th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics to be held in Toronto October 26-30. Bamidele also presented a poster based on an independent study on microarray analysis at the 4th Annual WNY Technology & Biomedical Informatics Forum held October 14 at the Niagara Falls Conference Center.

Jean Wactawski-Wende, Ph.D., presented a poster entitled "*The Association Between Osteoporosis and Oral Bone Loss in Postmenopausal Women*" at the 26th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research held in Seattle on October 4.

Names in the News

Sara Abrams, Fanor Balderrama, Maansi Bansal, Beth Heavey, Mary Platek, Ana Santander, Bamidele Tayo, Barbara Teter, Edith Williams and Brian Wrotniak successfully passed the May 2004 preliminary exam.

Germaine Buck Lewis, Ph.D. was the recipient of the National Institute of Health Director's Award for Mentoring based on exemplary performance while demonstrating

significant leadership, skill, and ability in serving as a mentor for the Epidemiologic Branch at NICHD.

Jo Freudenheim, PhD. was recently appointed chair of the Epidemiology of Cancer Study Section (EPIC) at NIH. Dr. Freudenheim also taught a course in nutrition at the 39th Graduate Summer Session in Epidemiology at the University of Michigan.

Dai Imamura, Ph.D. has accepted a position effective September 1 as project statistician at Pfizer in Japan.

Sara Sinclair, M.P.H. has accepted a position as research assistant for the Center for Injury Research & Policy at Columbus Children's Hospital in Ohio.

SPM Graduate Student Association

The Graduate Student Association of the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine recently elected new officers for the 2004-2005 academic year: Hamed Rezaishiraz (president), Victor Kolade (vice president), Stacey Sood (treasurer), and Jamie Muhleisen (secretary). Gabrielle Foley and Bamidele Tayo will serve as senators. Alternate senators are Sreenivasa Sarikonda, Margaret Zambon, Sarah Klein and Kwabena Koakye.

September 2004 Graduates

The following students successfully completed all degree requirements established by the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine and the University at Buffalo for September 2004 degree conferral. Congratulations!

M.P.H.

Christine Hildago, "*Community Acquired Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (CA-MRSA) in Children.*" Mentors include Drs. Dennis Bertram and Carl Li. Christine is currently an AIDS program representative at the NYS Department of Health.

Julie LaFalce, "*How Can the United States Food Supply be Protected from BSE Infection?*" Mentors include Drs. Dennis Bertram and Carl Li. Julie is a protocol data manager at the Frontier Science and Technology Research Foundation in Amherst, NY.

Paulette Wydro, "*Investigation of Emergency Room Utilization Among Persons with Asthma.*" Mentors include Drs. Dennis Bertram and Carl Li. Paulette is the program manager for the Center for Asthma & Environmental Exposure at Buffalo General Hospital.

M.S. in Epidemiology

John Steven Cramer, M.D., "*The Role of Stanol Esters in the Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease: A Systematic Review/Meta-analysis.*" Mentors include Drs. Holger Schuneman (major), Christopher Sempos and Laurene Tumiel-Berhalter. John is an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Buffalo.

Beth Slotman, "*Lifestyle and Menopausal Symptoms.*" Mentors include Drs. Susan McCann, Jean Wactawski-Wende and Janice Hastrup.

Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Community Health

Jing Nie, "*Environmental Exposure to Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) Genetic Susceptibility and Risk of Breast Cancer.*" Mentors include Drs. Jo Freudenheim (major), John Vena and Peter Rogerson. Mary Ward, Ph.D. from the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics at NCI served as outside reader. Jing is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine.

Heather Ochs-Balcom, "*Chronic Airflow Limitation and Oxidant/Antioxidant Status.*" Mentors include Drs. Holger Schuneman (major), Paola Muti, Brydon Grant and Christopher Sempos. Patricia Cassano, Ph.D. from the Division of Nutrition Sciences at Cornell University served as outside reader. Heather was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship in the Division of Genetic and Molecular Epidemiology at Case Western Reserve University.

New Students for Fall 2004

Twenty five new students matriculated in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine for the Fall 2004 semester. They include:

M.P.H.

Margaret Certo, D.D.S., University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine; assistant professor, University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine

Isabelle Chughtai-Harvey, M.D., University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences; staff facilitator, Tremendous Teens of WNY/Americorps

Gregory Ciupak, B.A. psychology, University at Buffalo; training coordinator, Frontier Science & Technology Research Foundation

Peggy Davis, B.S.N., Niagara University; regional director, Medical Benefit Management, Univera Health Care

Stephanie Coleman, B.A. biology, St. John Fisher College

Craig Cooley, M.D., Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine; Emergency Medicine resident, University at Buffalo

Federica Fucci, M.D., Seconda Universita degli studi di Napoli, Italy; Preventive Medicine resident, Seconda Universita degli studi di Napoli, Italy

Nicholas Howard, B.S., Health and Wellness, Buffalo State College

Kimberly Jetty, J.D. candidate, University at Buffalo

Adrian Jones, J.D., University at Buffalo, interim dean of Multicultural Affairs and assistant director, University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Brian King, B.S. biological sciences, University at Buffalo; inpatient pharmacy technician, Unity Health System, Rochester, NY

Kerry Morris, J.D. candidate, University at Buffalo

Kenneth Piazza, M.D., University at Buffalo

Andrea Pratt, J.D. candidate, University at Buffalo

M.S. in Epidemiology

Fred Archer III, M.D., Howard University College of Medicine; Primary Care Research Fellow, Department of Family Medicine, University at Buffalo

Patricia Buczak, B.S.N., University at Buffalo; lymphoma research nurse, Roswell Park Cancer Institute

Teniade Fann, M.D., The University of Iowa School of Medicine; Primary Care Research Fellow, Department of Family Medicine, University at Buffalo

Victor Kolade, M.B.B.S., College of Medicine, University of Ibadan; Primary Care Research Fellow, Department of Internal Medicine, University at Buffalo

Miriam Silverberg, M.D., University of Toronto

Raymond Skeps, B.A psychology, Thiel College; research technician, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine

Stacey Sood, B.S., biological sciences, University at Buffalo; veterinary assistant, Lancaster Small Animal Hospital

Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Community Health

Margaret Divita, B.A. anthropology, SUNY/Geneseo; graduate assistant, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine

Gabrielle Foley, M.P.H., San Diego State University; graduate assistant, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine

Vijayvel Jayaprakash, M.B.B.S., Government Kilpauk Medical College; research assistant, Roswell Park Cancer Institute

Lisa Leuchner, R.D., University at Buffalo; graduate assistant, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine

New Course Offerings for Spring 2005

SPM 626 Arthropods of Public Health Importance (3 credits). This course is intended for students seeking a career in public health and medical sciences 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 will also be covered that 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. The course will be offered on Wednesdays from 9:00-11:20 a.m., taught by Wayne Gall, Ph.D., regional entomologist at the NYSDH Western Region.

SPM 634 Public Health and Managed Health Care (3 credits). The course is designed to teach students the principles and practices of public health and managed care, with a specific focus on how managed care organizations use advanced medical management systems to promote population health and manage medical expense. Students will learn basic business models for health plans and gain understanding of payment systems and provider risk arrangements. The course will review the current performance of the U.S. health care system and analyze the current and future role of managed health care. The course will be offered on Wednesdays from 6:00-8:20 p.m., taught by Dennis Horrigan, M.S., vice president of Managed Care Development at Independent Health. See the website at <http://php.buffalo.edu/mph/prospective/index.htm> .