

SPM NEWS

Department of Social & Preventive Medicine

School of Public Health and Health Professions
State University of New York at Buffalo
<http://sphhp.buffalo.edu/spm/>

June 2005

Marcia Wopperer, editor

The Director's Corner

Commencement for the School of Public Health and Health Professions was held on May 14 at the Center for the Arts. Twenty-eight students from the Department of SPM were included in the roster of degree conferrals. This included the third full cohort of Master of Public Health (MPH) students. Congratulations to all!

Although another academic year has come to an end, the Education Committee continues to work to strengthen its degree programs. There are two changes in policy that affect doctoral students. Beginning in May 2006, the preliminary examination will be offered once a year during the third week in May. The January preliminary exam will be eliminated beginning in 2007. Also, the biostatistics requirements for the preliminary exam have been modified. Prior to sitting for the exam, students are now required to successfully complete STA 504 Regression Analysis and STA 503 Statistical Comparisons and Associations. As before, students are required to complete SPM 506 Applied Statistics in Epidemiology, but STA 575 Survival Analysis is now considered an elective, not a requirement. We strongly encourage students to also take one of the following advanced statistics courses: STA 575 Survival Analysis, STA 517 Categorical Data Analysis, STA 526 Design and Analysis of Clinical Experiments, or STA 509 Statistical Genomics.

The School of Public Health and Health Professions will have a graduate student recruitment booth at the American Public Health Association (APHA) meeting in New Orleans on November 5-9. As I will be the faculty member staffing the booth, please drop by if you will be attending the APHA meeting and bring beignets. Also, don't forget to bring any prospective graduate students along with you!

Drs. Carlos Crespo and Ellen Smit will be leaving the Department of SPM this summer to accept positions at Portland State University. Carlos will serve as director of the School of Community Health, and Ellen has accepted a position at the Center for Public Health Studies. I would like to thank Drs. Crespo and Smit for their years of service and dedication to our graduate program. We wish you all the best.

While we bid farewell to Carlos and Ellen, we look forward to a new cohort of incoming graduate students and a new academic year. Enjoy the summer!

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

Society for Epidemiologic Research

The Joint Meeting of the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) and the Canadian Society of Epidemiology Without Borders (CSEB) was held in Toronto on June 27-30, 2005. The following presentations were made by SPM faculty/students/graduates/fellows:

Matthew Bonner, Ph.D. ('03), *"Malathion Exposure and Cancer Incidence in the Agricultural Health Study (AHS)"*

Chaitali Ghosh, Ph.D. ('00), *"Dietary Folate and Risk of Cervical Cancer"*

Yuko Kawasumi, M.S. ('01), *"Physicians' Utilization of an Electronic Medication History (EMH) for Vulnerable Populations"*

Jian Liu, Ph.D. ('02), *"Insulin Resistance Syndrome and Anthropometric Measurements of Adolescent Body Composition: A Cross-Sectional Analysis of the NHANES III"*

Danelle Lobdell, Ph.D. ('01), *"Recruitment and Retention Issues Among Non-White Participants for a Large Longitudinal Study of Children's Environmental Health"*

Pauline Mendola, Ph.D. ('94), *"Relationship Between Air Quality and Selected Cardiac Defects and Oral Clefts, Texas, 1997-2000"*

Sylvia Quick, *"Effect Modification by Catalase Genotype Suggests a Role for Oxidative Stress in the Relationship Between Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) Use and Breast Cancer Risk"*

Paula Rosenbaum, Ph.D. ('98), *"Indoor Mold and the Risk of Wheeze in the First Year of Life for Infants at Risk for Asthma"*

Enrique Schisterman, Ph.D. ('99), *"Confidence Intervals for the Youden Index and Corresponding Optimal Cut-Point"*

Ellen Smit, Ph.D., *"Legume and Protein Intake and Prostate Cancer Mortality in Puerto Rican Men"*


Saverio Stranges, Ph.D., *"Effects of Selenium Supplementation on Cardiovascular Disease Incidence and Mortality: Secondary Analyses in a Randomized Clinical Trial"*


Tiejian Wu, M.D., Ph.D. ('99), *"Exposure to Volatile Organic Compounds and Neurobehavioral Effect"*

American Public Health Association


The American Public Health Association's (APHA) 133rd Annual Meeting and Exposition entitled "*Evidence-Based Policy and Practice*" explores the processes of systematically finding, appraising and using scientific research as the basis for developing sound practices. The meeting will be held in New Orleans on November 5-9. Register early and save \$115! An Early-Bird discount is offered for registrations received by August 26. Visit the web at www.apha.org/meetings for further information and registration.


Honors and Awards


 **Oelisoa Mireille Andriankaja**, Ph.D. received the 2005 Saxon Graham Award for excellence in epidemiology and community health. Mireille is currently working as a post-doctoral training fellow in the School of Dental Medicine at the University at Buffalo.


 **Julie Baker**, M.S, R.N. is a selected participant for the 1st Annual NICHD-IHDCYH Summer Institute in Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology to be held at Woods Hole, MA. Up to 20 participants will be selected annually for this international program to train future independent investigators in reproductive or perinatal epidemiology.

 **Margaret Eberl**, M.D., M.P.H. was awarded a National Research Services Award (NRSA) Research Fellowship from the University at Buffalo Department of Family Medicine. She will begin her fellowship on August 26.

 **Jo Freudenheim**, Ph.D. received the honor of becoming a University at Buffalo Distinguished Professor at the first inaugural Celebration of Academic Excellence held at the UB's Center for the Arts on April 29.

 **Parveen Nedra Joseph**, M.S., received the 2005 Best Student Poster Presentation Award for her poster entitled "*Examining the Brachial Artery Reactivity Curve in the Buffalo Cardio-Metabolic Occupational Police Stress (BCOPS) Pilot Study*" presented at the 28th Annual Conference of the Society for Vascular Ultrasound held in Chicago on June 16-18.

 **Gabriela Neagoe**, M.D., M.P.H. received the 2005 Evidence Based Medicine Quality Improvement Award for her project entitled "*Closing the Loop: Timely and Appropriate Tracking of Diagnostic Test Results in a Primary Care Clinic.*"

 **Michael Ray**, M.P.H. was awarded a \$4,000 Presidential/Woodburn Fellowship for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Faculty Research

Kirsten Moysich, Ph.D. was awarded a one-year \$90,458 grant from the Susan G. Komen Foundation entitled "*Environmental Factors in Breast Cancer*". The objective of this research is to critically evaluate environmental risk factors for breast cancer and identify gaps in our current understanding of breast cancer etiology. **Greg Beehler** is project coordinator.

Dr. Moysich also received a \$30,000 one-year grant from the Roswell Park Cancer Institute Alliance Foundation entitled "*Pharmacogenetics and Ovarian Cancer Prognosis.*" The purpose of this pilot study is to investigate the prognostic significance of genetic polymorphisms relevant in the metabolism of chemotherapy among ovarian cancer patients.

Faculty/Student Presentations

Daikwon Han, Ph.D., presented a paper entitled "*Clustering of Cases by Early Life Residence: Evidence for Early Life Environmental Exposures in the Etiology of Breast Cancer*" at the Fourth Era of Hope Meeting for the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program held in Philadelphia in June.

Kirsten Moysich, Ph.D. was an invited speaker at the WNY Gilda's Club held in Buffalo in April. The title of her talk was "*Ovarian Cancer 101.*" Kirsten also gave an invited presentation on "*Environmental Exposures and Breast Cancer Risk*" at the National Breast Cancer Coalition Conference held in Washington, DC in May.

Gabriela Neagoe, M.D., presented a poster entitled "*Designing and Implementing a Quality Improvement Initiative Within a Primary Care Clinic Aimed at Improving the Continuity of Care Delivered to the Patients*" at the University Medical Resident Services 8th Annual Resident Scholarly Exchange Day held April 14th in the Biomedical Education Building Atrium.

Fond Farewell

Drs. **Carlos Crespo** and **Ellen Smit** have accepted positions at Portland State University. Carlos will serve as director of the School of Community Health effective August 1. Ellen has accepted a position at the Center for Public Health Studies. Drs. Crespo and Smit joined the Department of SPM in September 2000 as associate and assistant professors, respectively. We will miss them and wish them well in their new positions.

New Positions

Daikwon Han, Ph.D., has accepted a position as assistant professor of geography at the Institute for Regional Analysis and Public Policy (IRAPP) in Morehead, KY.

Cindy Tworek, Ph.D. has accepted a position as a behavioral scientist at the Center for Tobacco Independence in Portland, ME.

June 2005 Graduates

The following students successfully completed all degree requirements established by the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine and the University at Buffalo for June 2005 degree conferral. Congratulations!

M.P.H.

Ranjan Chanda, M.D., "*Should Aspirin Be Stopped Prior to Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery? A Systematic Review.*" Mentors include Drs. Carl Li (major) and Dennis Bertram. Ranjan will begin his private practice in Dallas, TX.

Margaret Eberl, M.D., "*Breast Symptoms Among Younger Women: Prevalence, Work-Up and Findings.*" Mentors include: Drs. Martin Mahoney (major) and Carl Li. Margaret will begin her National Research Services Award Research Fellowship in the Department of Family Medicine in August.

Bethany Gilbert, J.D., "*Public Health Observatory: Dealing with Legal and Ethical Privacy Issues After HIPAA.*" Mentors include Drs. Dennis Bertram (major) and Donald Rowe. Bethany has joined the law firm of Hodgson Russ LLD in Buffalo.

Cheryl Higbee, "*Trends in the Use of Illegal Drugs Among 9th Grade Students in Erie County, New York, and the United States.*" Mentors include Drs. Dennis Bertram (major) and Carl Li. Cheryl is currently a data manager in the Department of Health Behavior at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Hyung Sun Kim, "*Winter Sports (Ski and Snowboard) Injuries in the Buffalo Pediatric Population.*" Mentors include Drs. Dennis Bertram (major) and Carl Li.

Sarah Klein, "*Maintaining an Adequate and Safe Blood Supply in the Interest of Emergency Preparedness and Public Health.*" Mentors include Drs. Dennis Bertram (major) and Carl Li. Sarah is continuing her studies in the M.S. Program in Epidemiology in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine.

Peter McNeela, M.D., "*The Global Emergency of Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis: Potential Consequences for the United States and Local Communities.*" Mentors include Drs. Dennis Bertram (major) and Carl Li.

Juireith Mudie, "*Childhood Obesity: Public Health Impact and Implications for Type II Diabetes.*" Mentors include Drs. Dennis Bertram (major) and Carl Li.

Jamie Muhleisen, *“The 2004 Western New York Adult Health Risk Assessment: History and Significance.”* Mentors include Drs. Dennis Bertram (major) and Carl Li.

Gabriela Neagoe, M.D., *“Closing the Loop: Timely and Appropriate Tracking of Diagnostic Test Results in a Primary Care Clinic.”* Mentors include Drs. Carl Li (major) and Dennis Bertram.

Michael Ray, *“Accident Pending: Reducing Unintentional Injury in America’s Youth.”* Mentors include Drs. Dennis Bertram (major) and Carl Li. Michael is continuing his studies in the Ph.D. Program in Epidemiology and Community Health in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine.

Abhishek Sawant, M.B.B.S., *“Coffee and Black Tea Consumption and Risk of Breast Cancer.”* Mentors include Drs. Dennis Bertram (major) and Carl Li.

M.S. in Epidemiology

Parveen Nedra Joseph, *“Examining the Brachial Artery Reactivity Curve Measured by B-Mode Ultrasound in the BCOPS (Buffalo Cardio/Metabolic Occupational Police Stress) Pilot Study.”* Mentors include Drs. Joan Dorn (major), John Violanti, Michael Andrew and Ward Riley.

An Important Course for Public Health Professionals

SPM 537 Public Health Law
Wednesday 9-11:30 AM
Instructor: Sheila Shulman, LLB, MPH

The broad objective of the course is to foster an understanding of how the law serves as a tool in advancing a public health agenda. The class group is interdisciplinary, including law students and students from public health-related fields. The course begins with an examination of the historical legal constructs that ground public health law and the constitutional design that shapes and governs public health interventions. These foundational elements are fundamental to understanding the constraints that govern the work of public health professionals. General issues of health law, legislation, regulation, and ethics intersect in new and complex ways ultimately affecting the delivery of community health care programs. The course considers emerging public health challenges such as drug-resistant infectious diseases, renewed resistance to childhood vaccination, testing and screening programs, the challenge posed by threats of bioterrorism, and in all of this, the extent to which governments may restrain individual citizens for the promotion of the collective health.