

# 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/>

September 2005

*Marcia Wopperer, editor*

### ***The Director's Corner***

We would like to welcome our new students to the department and wish them success in their studies. We would also like to welcome three new faculty members: Drs. Matthew Bonner, Pavani Kalluri, and Savario Stranges. I encourage all students and faculty to attend the monthly pizza get-togethers held immediately following the departmental seminar. These informal get-togethers provide an excellent opportunity not only to talk with the presenter, but also to get to know faculty and students.

Two new courses have been added to the curriculum for the current academic year: SPM 519 Principles of Measurement in Epidemiologic Research (Fall), and SPM 549 Environmental Health (Spring). These new courses are part of our effort to improve and broaden the curriculum.

The first Annual Saxon Graham Lectureship was an unmitigated success. Dr. Walter Willett, Professor of Epidemiology and Nutrition and Chair of the Department of Nutrition at the Harvard School of Public Health, gave the inaugural lecture and provided much food for thought on what should be construed as the optimal diet and the new food pyramid. We continue to move forward toward accrediting the School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP). After meeting with the Council on Education in Public Health, work is underway to submit the application for accreditation in Spring 2006. SPHHP committees will then begin work on a school-wide self-study that will take approximately two years to complete.

The School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP) will staff a student recruitment booth at the 133<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of APHA. The meeting will be held December 10-14 in Philadelphia. If you are interested in attending, please let Steve Trynosky or me know. If expenses present a barrier, please let me know; there are limited resources available. Please come and support your school and help us recruit new graduate students to the SPM program.

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

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## ***Department of Social and Preventive Medicine Welcomes New Faculty***

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The Department of Social and Preventive Medicine welcomes three new faculty members.

**Matthew Bonner**, Ph.D. joined the Department as assistant professor on August 1. He received his M.P.H. from the University of Rochester in 1995 and his Ph.D. from the Department of SPM in 2003. Dr. Bonner recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Cancer Institute. His major interests include environmental and occupational epidemiology, molecular epidemiology and cancer epidemiology.

**Pavani Ram**, M.D. was appointed research assistant professor effective September 15. Dr. Ram was formerly a medical epidemiologist at the Foodborne and Diarrheal Diseases Branch at CDC from 2003-2005. She received her M.D. from Mount Sinai School of Medicine in 1998, and certification from the American Board of Internal Medicine in 2001. Her major interests include epidemiology of diarrheal epidemiology and prevention of diarrhea in the developing world.

**Saverio Stranges**, M.D., Ph.D. was appointed assistant professor effective September 1. Dr. Stranges joined the Department of SPM in 2002 as a research instructor. He received his M.D. in 1996 and his Ph.D. in Environmental Hygiene in 2004 from the University of Naples Medical School. His major interests include cardiovascular epidemiology; alcohol epidemiology; and obesity, body fat distribution and metabolic disease.

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## ***American Public Health Association***

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The 133<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association originally scheduled for November 5-9 in New Orleans has been rescheduled for December 10-14 in Philadelphia due to the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina. Information regarding the impact of the move on registrants can be found on the APHA website at [www.apha.org/meetings/](http://www.apha.org/meetings/). APHA is working on revising this year's program to address the public health emergency across the Gulf Coast, relief efforts and rebuilding of communities and the public health infrastructure.

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## ***Congress of Epidemiology 2006***

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The Second North American Congress of Epidemiology will be held June 21-24 at the Westin Seattle Hotel, Seattle WA. Plenary sessions include recognizing and solving public health problems with epidemiology, developing public health policy using epidemiology, and global health present and future. Abstract deadline is February 3. For more information see [www.epicongress2006.org](http://www.epicongress2006.org).

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## **Honors and Awards**

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**Andrew Hyland**, Ph.D. has been chosen to receive the SPHHP Academic Service Award for 2005. This award recognizes the efforts of alumni and their long-standing volunteer academic service to one or more academic programs within the School. Nominees must be alumnus/alumna of the school with a minimum of five years of volunteer service to one or more of SPHHP's academic programs. The award will be presented at the J. Warren Perry Lecture on October 28.

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## **Faculty Research**

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**John Violanti**, Ph.D. was awarded a two-year \$501,676 grant from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) entitled "*Shift Work, Extended Hours, and Fatigue: A Retrospective Assessment of Health, Mortality and Personal Risk for Police Officers*". The study will assess career-length work hour/shift work impact on health morbidity and mortality, stress, accidents, injuries, and personal outcomes of fatigue in police officers – 1950 to 2004.

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## **Faculty/Student Presentations**

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**Jing Nie**, Ph.D. will present a paper entitled "*Traffic Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) Genetic Susceptibility and Risk of Breast Cancer*" at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Developmental Origins of Health and Disease, November 16-20 in Toronto.

**Lisa Rafalson** will present a paper entitled "*Incidence and Risk Factors for Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in Western New York*" at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the State Society on Aging of New York held October 20 in Verona, NY.

**Saverio Stranges**, Ph.D. will present a paper entitled "*Alcohol Drinking Pattern and Subjective Health in a Population-Based Study*" at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Society for Quality of Life Research held in San Francisco, October 19-22. He will also present a paper at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions 2005 entitled "*Body Fat Distribution, Liver Enzymes and Risk of Hypertension: Evidence from the Western New York Study*." The meeting will be held in Dallas, November 13-16.

**John Violanti**, Ph.D. was an invited presenter at the National Institute of Justice Research Conference held in Washington, DC on July 18. The title of his presentation was "*Why Cops Die Early: Police Work, Health and Mortality*."

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## **News and Notes**

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**Parveen Nedra Joseph** and **Michael Yeh** successfully passed their preliminary exams in May 2005.

**Pauline Mendola**, Ph.D., ('94) has been promoted to Branch Chief at the Environmental Protection Agency.

**Reem Mustafa**, M.B.B.S. has been elected to serve on the Governing Council of the Association of Preventive Medicine Residents for the Categorical Position for Residents from Small Programs.

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### ***Preventive Medicine Residency Program***

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**Reem Mustafa**, M.B.B.S. began her PGY III in the Combined Internal Medicine/General Preventive Medicine Residency Program on July 1. Reem received her M.B.B.S. from the University of Jordan in 2000. She began her residency in internal medicine in the combined program in 2003.

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### ***June 2005 Graduates***

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

#### **M.P.H.**

**Margaret Zambon**, *"Flavored Cigarette Use in Western New York: Results of the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Survey."* Mentors include Drs. Andrew Hyland (major) and Dennis Bertram.

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### ***New Students***

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#### **M.P.H.**

**Dale Bauman**, B.S. Neuroscience, The University of Scranton.

**Chin Kit-Wells**, D.D.S., University at Buffalo; clinical assistant professor, Department of Pediatric and Community Dentistry, University at Buffalo.

**Jason Chow**, B.A. Economics, New York University.

**Kelly Dearing**, B.S. Biology, LeMoyne College; senior research support specialist, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Behavior Medicine, University at Buffalo.

**Lhakpa Dolma**, M.Com., Himachal Pradesh University; Fulbright Scholar, The Tibet Fund.

**Anna Falicov**, B.A. Urban Studies, Harvard University.

**Nishat Hamid**, B.S. Chemical and Biological Engineering, University at Buffalo; MBA student, University at Buffalo.

**Lise Hernandez**, B.S.N, D'Youville College; transplant coordinator, Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

**Jason Kwartner**, B.S. Policy Analysis and Management/Human Development, Cornell University; J.D. student, University at Buffalo.

**Andrew Lo**, B.S. Premed-Life Sciences, New York Institute of Technology.

**Brian McCarthy**, B.A. History, College of the Holy Cross; J.D. student, University at Buffalo.

**Marguerite Mounier**, B.A. History and Philosophy, SUNY at Binghamton; JD student, University at Buffalo.

**Reem Mustafa**, M.B.B.S., University of Jordon; Preventive Medicine resident, University at Buffalo.

**Jessica Palmer**, B.S. Health Science, University of Hartford.

**Anne Passalugo**, B.A. Sociology, University at Buffalo; respiratory therapist, Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center.

**Kimberly Rook**, B.A. Psychology, University at Buffalo; MSW student, University at Buffalo.

**Amy Van Deusen**, B.A. Psychology, University at Albany; cancer prevention associate II, Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

### **M.S. in Epidemiology**

**Sarah Klein**, M.S. Epidemiology, University at Buffalo.

**Jane Rotterman**, B.A. Psychology, University at Buffalo, research assistant, Research Institute on Addictions.

**Karen Sere day**, B.S. Exercise Science, University at Buffalo.

**Renee Walker**, B.S./B.A. Biological Sciences and Africana Studies, Binghamton University.

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

**Michael Ray**, M.P.H., University at Buffalo; research assistant, Cancer Prevention, Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

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

**Philip Smeltzer**, B.A. Physical Education, Oregon State University; associate director/general manager, Wellness Institute of Buffalo.

**Brent Williams**, M.S. Statistics, Penn State University; graduate assistant, Department of SPM.

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***New Course for Spring 2006***

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SPM 549 Environmental Health  
Wednesday 12:00-2:20 p.m.  
Instructor: William Scheider, Ph.D.

The course explores the role of environmental factors in health, with an emphasis on characterization, assessment, and control of environmental hazards. Topics include application of toxicologic and epidemiologic methods in assessing risk and setting exposure limits; the nature of and control of hazards associated with food, water, air, solid and liquid waste, occupation, and radiation; risk communication and management; environmental justice; and environmental laws. The course concludes by examining the impact of human activity, such as energy use and pollution, on the environment and how human-induced environmental change, in turn, impacts public health and that of the planet as a whole.