

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>

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Marcia Wopperer, editor

The Director's Corner

We are happy to announce that Jean Wactawski-Wende, Ph.D. has been appointed associate chair in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine. Dr. Wactawski-Wende is nationally and internationally recognized for her work on women's health. She has been a leader of the Buffalo Center for the Women's Health Initiative since it began in 1993. Her work has focused on osteoporosis prevention and the relation of osteoporosis for periodontal disease. Dr. Wactawski-Wende joined the Department as assistant professor in 1999, and was promoted to associate professor in 2005. Dr. Wactawski-Wende was recognized by the University at Buffalo in 2002 as a Top 100 Federal Grantee, in 2003-2004 as a Top Federally Funded Faculty (\$2 million dollars of grant funding per year) and 2004-2005 as a Top 100 Principal Investigator. She also received the 2005 Outstanding Researcher of the Year Award from the School of Public Health and Health Professions. Her dedication as a researcher and faculty mentor continues to be an invaluable asset both to the department and its graduate program.

We wish a fond farewell to Saverio Stranges, M.D., Ph.D. who will be leaving SPM. Dr. Stranges has accepted a position as senior clinical lecturer in cardiovascular epidemiology at Warwick Medical School, Division of Clinical Sciences (Clinical Sciences Research Institute) at the University of Warwick, UK effective August 4. We extend very best wishes to Saverio in his new position.

Commencement for the School of Public Health and Health Professions was held on May 13 at the Center for the Arts. Twenty-six MPH, MS, and PhD students from the Department of SPM were included in the roster of degree conferrals. Congratulations to our graduates!

We are continuing to move forward toward accrediting the School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP). The New York State Education Department has recently approved the proposal to expand the MPH program with the addition of concentrations in Environmental Health and in Behavioral Science. With the addition of the two concentration areas, SPHHP will be better positioned to qualify for accreditation. The Status of Application has been submitted to the Council on Education in Public Health. We expect to hear soon if the application has been approved. If so, the school will begin a self study and there will be a site visit in Fall 2007 or Spring 2008. Work has already begun to establish school structures necessary for the accreditation.

The School of Public Health and Health Professions will have a graduate student recruitment booth at the American Public Health Association (APHA) meeting in Boston, November 4-8. Please drop by if you are attending the APHA meeting and bring some chowder. Don't forget to bring any prospective graduate students along with you!

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.

American Public Health Association

The 134th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association will be held November 4-8 in Boston, MA. The theme of this year's meeting, *"Health and Human Rights,"* will examine health and human rights from multiple perspectives, including social sciences and natural and quantitative sciences. Register by August 24 and save \$115! Registration and information can be found at www.apha.org/meetings/reg_housing.htm. Several SPM faculty and students abstracts have been accepted for presentation:

K. Michael Cummings, Ph.D., *"Are There Any Burning Research Questions Left to be Answered About Tobacco?"*

Elizabeth Heavey, Ph.D., *"Racial Disparities in Contraception Choice and Usage Among Female Adolescents at a State Funded Family Planning Clinic"*

Andrew Hyland, Ph.D., *"Effect of Low/Untaxed Cigarettes on Smoking Behavior in the US, Canada, UK, and Australia: Findings from the ITC Four Country Survey"*

Christine Murekeyisoni, M.P.H., *"Community-Driven Research on Environmental Exposure and Autoimmune Diseases"*

Reem Mustafa, M.B.B.S., *"International Supply to the US Physician Workforce: Historical Trends and Characteristics"*

Donald Rowe, Ph.D., *"Regional Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness: An Eight County Initiative"*

William Scheider, Ph.D., *"Health Promotion in Faith Communities: A Way to Improve Access to Primary Prevention"*

Gerald Stevens, D.C., *"Behavioral Barriers to Seeking Chiropractic Care"*

Stephen Trynosky, J.D., M.P.H., *"Physician-Soldier: The All-Volunteer Military and How it Changed Who Serves in Our Name"*

Edith Williams, M.S., *"Inflammation and Subclinical Atherosclerosis in African-American Women with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: The Breakfast with a Buddy Biomarkers of Lupus Study"*

Honors and Awards



Elie Akl, M.D., M.P.H. received the 2006 Siegel Award for Excellence in Teaching from the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.



Julie Baker, M.S., was awarded LGBT Scholar, a national award for students committed to affecting change in the LGBT community through education and work in the health professions.



Michael Bloom, Ph.D. ('04) received the Student Prize Paper Award for his paper entitled *"Selecting Controls is Not Selecting 'Normals': Design and Analysis Issues for Studying the Etiology of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome"* at the 19th Annual Meeting of the Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology Research (SPER) held in Seattle, June 20-21.



Elizabeth Heavey, Ph.D. was awarded a Mark Diamond Research Fund grant for her research expenses related to the conduct of her dissertation.



Reem Mustafa, M.B.B.S. received the Evidence Based Medicine Quality Improvement Award from the Office of Graduate Medical Education, University at Buffalo, for her project entitled “*A Needs Assessment for an Educational Game to Improve Internal Medicine Residents’ Knowledge of Clinical Practice Guidelines.*”



She also won third place for her poster entitled “*International Medical Graduates in the U.S.: Trends and Characteristics*” presented at the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences 9th Annual Resident Scholarly Exchange Day held on May 4.



Nalini Packianathan, M.D., M.P.H. was awarded the 2006 Thomas F. Frawley Fellowship from the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. The award of \$1800 was presented at the 9th Annual Resident Scholarly Exchange Day held on May 4 in recognition for a candidate’s potential and quality of proposed research.



Karol Rejman, M.S. was the University at Buffalo nominee for the Professional Nurses’ Association of WNY’s Nurse of Distinction Award.



Stephen Trynosky, J.D., M.P.H. was awarded a federal Presidential Management Fellowship for 2006 from the Office of Personnel Management. The fellowship was created to attract men and women to federal service from a variety of academic disciplines who have a clear interest in and commitment to excellence in leadership and management of public policies and programs.



Jean Wactawski-Wende, Ph.D. was awarded the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship.



Brian Wrotniak, Ph.D. was awarded the 2006 Saxon Graham Award for academic excellence in epidemiology.

Faculty/Student Research

Christine Ambrosone, Ph.D., is the principal investigator for a four-year, \$1,914,029 National Cancer Institute grant entitled “*Antioxidant Supplements, Genetics, and Chemotherapy Outcomes.*” In the context of a recently initiated clinical trial for treatment of breast cancer, the study will evaluate the potential role of use of antioxidant supplements in treatment-related toxicities as well as disease-free survival. Co-investigators include Drs. **Susan McCann**, Yucel Rustum, Julie Britton and the Southwest Oncology Group.

Craig Cooley, M.D., M.P.H., **Anna Falicov**, **Stephen Trynosky**, J.D., M.P.H. and **Sarah Tracy-Watkins** were awarded a \$730 grant from the Canadian-American Studies Committee to support a project entitled “*Expanding the Knowledge of Cross Border Public Health Emergency Response Systems.*” **Donald Rowe**, Ph.D. is the supervising faculty.

Drs. **Joan Dorn**, Harold Burton and Peter Horvath are co-investigators for a one-year, \$19,367 grant entitled “*Western New York Wellness Works Regional Resource Center*” from the J. Warren Perry and Charles Donald Perry Memorial Fund. The goal of the grant is to establish a sustainable, regional worksite wellness resource center servicing the WNY community (targeting at-risk and minority populations, small business employers, and other special populations) by providing cutting-edge health promotion and worksite wellness research findings, health risk assessments and educational materials.

Susan McCann, Ph.D. received a \$93,000 grant entitled “*Low Glycemic Diet Intervention in Women at High Risk for Breast Cancer*” from the Roswell Park Cancer Institute Alliance Foundation. This pilot intervention study will assess the feasibility of a long-term low glycemic diet intervention to reduce breast cancer risk factors in women at high risk for breast cancer. Co-investigators include: Drs. **James Marshall**, Swati Kulkarni, Chi-Chen Hong, Stephen Edge and Ermelinda Bonaccio.

Kirsten Moysich, Ph.D. was awarded a \$30,000 one-year grant entitled “*Analysis of Functional Genetic Polymorphisms Associated with Activity of Treg Cells in Ovarian Cancer*” from the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation.

Jean Wactawski-Wende, Ph.D., is principal investigator for a five year “*Women’s Health Initiative Extension Study*” from NIH. The major goal of this study is to determine the longer term effects of the WHI clinical trials and observation study. **Maurizio Trevisan** is co-investigator. Dr. Wactawski-Wende was also awarded a one-year grant from the University of North Carolina entitled “*WHI Breast Density Study*” to assess the role of hormone therapy on breast density changes in postmenopausal women.

Faculty/Student Presentations

Anna Falicov and **Stephen Trynosky**, J.D., M.P.H. presented a poster entitled “*Cross-Border Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planning Between Western New York and the Province of Ontario*” at the CDC “The Public’s Health and the Law” conference held June 12-14 in Atlanta, GA.

Jo Freudenheim, Ph.D. presented a paper entitled “*Early Exposures in Breast Cancer Epidemiology: Use of the Life Course Model*” at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus, March 27-29. She was also co-chair of the Diet and Cancer Mini-Symposium at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting held in Washington, DC, April 1-5.

Gary Giovino, Ph.D. delivered the ‘Background and Overview’ presentation at the NIH State-of-the-Science Conference on Tobacco Use: Prevention, Cessation, and Control on June 12 in Bethesda, MD.

Susan McCann, Ph.D. was an invited presenter at the 6th International Conference on Dietary Patterns Workshop held in Copenhagen, Denmark on April 26 for her paper entitled “*Meaningful Food Patterns – What are We Trying to Measure?*” She also presented a paper at the conference entitled “*Dietary Patterns Related to Glycemic Index and Load and Risk of Pre- and Postmenopausal Breast Cancer.*” Dr. McCann presented a paper entitled “*Dietary Lignan Intakes and Risk of Breast Cancer by Tumor Estrogen Receptor Status*” at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) held in Washington, DC, April 1-5; and she will also present a poster entitled “*Effect of COMT and CYP1B1 Genotype on Changes in 2- and 16 α -hydroxyestrone Metabolism After Flaxseed Consumption*” at the AACR Frontiers in Cancer Prevention to be held in Baltimore, October 30-November 2.

Ravi Menezes, M.Sc. was an invited participant at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Edward A. Smuckler Memorial Pathobiology of Cancer Workshop held in Washington, DC, April 1-5.

Kirsten Moysich, Ph.D. was an invited presenter at the National Breast Cancer Coalition Foundation in Washington DC for her research entitled “*Explaining the Numbers in Breast Cancer,*” and at the Society for Nuclear Medicine held in San Diego, and Community Environmental Monitoring Program held in Las Vegas for her research entitled “*Cancer Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Accident.*”

Amy Millen, Ph.D. presented a paper entitled “*Differences Between Food Reports of Low Energy Reporters (LERs) and non-LERs on Both 24-Hour Recalls and a Food Frequency Questionnaire*” at the 6th International Conference on Dietary Assessment held in Copenhagen, Denmark, April 27-28.

Hamed Rezaishiraz, M.D. will present a poster entitled “*Combining a Very-Low Nicotine Cigarette With Nicotine Patch May Help Smokers Quit*” at the World Conference on Tobacco or Health to be held in Washington, DC on July 14.

News and Notes

Bethany Gilbert, J.D., M.P.H. ('05) was recently admitted to the New York State Bar.

Susan McCann, Ph.D. was recently appointed to the Board of Editors, Journal of Nutrition.

Helen Swede, Ph.D. ('00) has accepted a position as assistant professor, Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Department of Community Medicine and Health Care, at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine effective June 23.

Jean Wactawski-Wende, Ph.D. has been appointed to the Vice President for Research Advisory Committee.

June 2006 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 2006 degree conferral. Congratulations!

Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Community Health

Renee Brennan, M.S., "*The Association Between Systemic Bone Density and Periodontitis: Confounding or Effect Modification by Oral Bacteria.*" Renee is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine.

Elizabeth Heavey, M.S.N., "*Reproductive Decision Making Among Female Adolescents Living in Low-Socioeconomic Environments.*" Beth is an assistant professor at SUNY Brockport.

Bamidele Tayo, M.S., "*Weighted Logistic Regression Model for Genetic Association Studies in Admixed Populations.*"

Maansi Bansal Travers, M.S., "*Evaluation of an Intervention to Correct Smokers' Misperceptions About Their Cigarettees.*" Maansi is a postdoctoral fellow at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

M.S. Epidemiology

Sarah Klein, M.P.H., "*Smoking Clinic Cessation Outcomes: Have Smokers Become More Recalcitrant?*" Sarah is a data manager at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Victor Kolade, M.B.B.S., "*What Are New York Health Plans Doing to Help Smokers Quit?*" Victor is a research assistant professor at Academic Medicine Services in the Department of Medicine, University at Buffalo.

M.P.H.

Kwabena Boakye, "*Increasing Physical Activity in the South Bronx, New York.*" Kwabena is continuing his studies at Ross University School of Medicine, Commonwealth of Dominica, West Indies.

Craig Cooley, M.D., "*Integration of Public Health With Emergency Medical Services and Homeland Security Preparedness in Western New York.*" Craig is an EMP/Medical Director, Northern Chautauqua County at FOR Medical.

Federica Fucci, M.D., "*Exposure to Secondhand Smoke and Risk of Myocardial Infarction in Never Smokers: A Population-Based Case-Control Study.*" Federica is a physician specializing in preventive medicine.

Bernadette Hoppe, J.D., *“Amicus Curiae Brief to an Appeals Court in Texas on a Case Called Ward v. State of Texas.”* Bernadette is an attorney in Buffalo.

Nicholas Howard, *“A Guide to the Community Health Assessment Electronic Reporting System (CHAERS).”*

Kimberly Jetty, J.D., *“Public Health Implications of Unplanned Pregnancies and Emergency Contraceptives.”*

Brian King, *“Socioeconomic Variation in the Prevalence of Point of Purchase Cigarette Advertising Across New York State: The Retail Advertising Tobacco Survey.”* Brian will continue his studies in the Ph.D. Program in Epidemiology and Community Health in the Department of SPM.

Kerry Morris, J.D., *“The Effect of Care Coordination Systems on Accessibility to Long-Term Care Services for the Elderly.”*

Nalini Packianathan, M.D., *“Anaphylaxis in the Pediatric Population.”* Nalini will begin her fellowship in Allergy and Immunology at Women’s and Children Hospital of Buffalo on July 1.

Andrea Pratt, J.D., *“Public Health Implications of Justice System Overcrowding and Mental Health Care.”*

Stacey Sood, *“Rabies: A Review of Optimal Control Strategies for an Endemic Disease.”* Stacey has been accepted at the Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine.

Stephen Trynosky, J.D., *“An Analysis of Cross-Border Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planning Between Western New York and the Province of Ontario.”* Stephen will begin his two-year federal Presidential Management Fellowship this summer.

In Memoriam

A celebration of life for Roger L. Priore was held on June 2. He died May 21 at home of cancer, he was 68. Dr. Priore, a retired biostatistician who worked at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, was a long-time research collaborator with faculty in SPM and Biostatistics and a mentor to numerous graduate students.

Dr. Priore was born in Buffalo and lived in the area his entire life. He earned a B.A. in psychology in 1960 and a M.S. in biostatistics in 1962 from the University at Buffalo, and a Sc.D. in 1965 from Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Priore worked at Roswell Park from 1960 to 1991 starting as a junior scientist in Biostatistics, serving as Computer Center Director from 1969 to 1983, Director of Cancer Research in Computer Science from 1974 to 1983, Director of Management Information Systems from 1988 to 1990, and Director of the Department of Biomathematics, and Director of the Biostatistics Section of the Department of Biomathematics from 1983 to 1991.

Dr. Priore's passion was teaching and working one-on-one with graduate students. He served as Research Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Biometry from 1980 to 1991. He was appointed Clinical Professor in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine in 1991 while also working as a private consultant in statistics and research computing. Since 1999 he has also held the position of Senior Biostatistician for the GOG Statistical and Data Center, and since 2003 as Research Professor in the UB Department of Biostatistics. Dr. Priore, who authored more than 125 papers, two of which won awards, was listed in Who's Who in America and was a member of Sigma Xi National Scientific Research Society. Roger's expertise and passion for the subject will be greatly missed by many faculty, staff and students.