

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

Welcome to a new academic year to both new and continuing students! The coming year should be filled with important changes for the school and for the department. We are continuing to move forward for accreditation for the School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP) by working to establish the school structures necessary for accreditation. Lynn Kozlowski, Ph.D. has joined UB as chair of the Department of Health Behavior, and Gary Giovino, Ph.D. has moved from Roswell Park Cancer Institute to become professor in the new department. The Departments of Health Behavior and Social and Preventive Medicine have ongoing searches for several new faculty members. A search is also ongoing for the director of the Division of Environmental Epidemiology, which will be housed within the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, and for the chair of the Department of Public Health Policy, Practice, and Management.

Thirty-two students have joined the department for the Fall 2006 semester: three Ph.D., four M.S. and 24 M.P.H. (13 in the epidemiology concentration and 11 in the health services concentration). We would like to welcome all new students and wish them success in their studies.

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. Don't forget to bring any prospective graduate students along with you!

We continue to recruit students to the new MPH programs in environmental epidemiology and health behavior. If you are interested in an MPH with a concentration in environmental epidemiology or health behavior, please contact me.

All the best to each of you in the new semester!

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

Honors and Awards



Renee Brennan, Ph.D. was one of 100 fellows from around the world selected to attend the First Annual Endocrine Fellows program at the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR) in Philadelphia held in September. The honor included a travel scholarship where Dr. Brennan presented a poster on her dissertation, *"The Association Between Systemic Bone Density and Periodontitis: Confounding or Effect Modification by Oral Bacteria?"*



Jean Wactawski-Wende, Ph.D. was named *2006 Promising Inventor* by the University at Buffalo, Office of Science, Technology Transfer and Economic Outreach of the Research Foundation of SUNY. This recognition is the result of her collaboration and work with Dr. Hoffmann and others to develop a new method for determining oral bone density.



Michelle Roberts, M.A., was awarded a \$4,000 Presidential/Woodburn Fellowship from the University at Buffalo for her doctoral studies.

Faculty/Student Research

Kirsten Moysich, Ph.D. is principal investigator for a two-year, \$174,113 grant entitled "*Pharmacogenetics in Ovarian Cancer*" from NIH/NCI. The goal of this study is to examine the role of genetic polymorphisms relevant to ovarian cancer treatment and clinical outcomes among ovarian cancer patients. Dr. Moysich is also co-principal investigator with **Jun Yang** ('02) for a New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) grant entitled "*Gene-Environment Interactions in Breast Cancer*." The goal of this two-year \$120,000 grant is to conduct a pooled analysis of nine studies to explore in detail the associations between environmental PCB exposure, the CYP1A1 genetic polymorphisms, and breast cancer risk.

Mark Travers, M.S. has received a \$162,750 two-year Young Clinical Scientist Award entitled "*Advances in Monitoring Exposure to Secondhand Smoke: In the Air and In the Body*" from the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute. Studies will be conducted to evaluate smoke-free air policies using the latest real-time air monitoring equipment as well as novel and established biomarkers of tobacco smoke pollution exposure. Mark also received a \$20,000 Career Development Program grant entitled "*Validating Tools to Measure Exposure to Tobacco Smoke Pollution*" from the Roswell Park Cancer Institute Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Center (TTURC). This project will validate a specific piece of real-time air monitoring equipment for use in studies of exposure to tobacco smoke pollution.

Jean Wactawski-Wende, Ph.D., was awarded a \$3.2 million contract from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) to study the "Effects of Aspirin in Gestation and Reproduction (EAGR)". This five-year multi-center clinical trial will assess the effect of low dose aspirin on pregnancy in women who have experienced one previous spontaneous abortion. The contract will run from 09/30/06 through 09/29/11. Other investigators include Dr. Maurizio Trevisan (SPHHP), Dr. Richard Browne (SMBS) and Drs. Abu-Sitta, Crickard, Gugino, Sullivan, Weppner and Yeh (Gynecology-Obstetrics).

Faculty/Student Presentations

Kelly Dearing will present a poster entitled "*Price and Obesity Influence Purchasing of Low and High Energy Dense Foods*" at the North American Association for the Study of Obesity (NAASO) Conference to be held in Boston, October 20-24.

Gary Giovino, Ph.D. will present "*The Tobacco Use Epidemic*" to the President's Cancer Panel meeting to be held in Lexington, KY on October 23.

David Jaworowicz, M.S. presented a poster entitled "*Assessment of Early Life Exposures: Agreement Between Self-Reported Birth Weight and Birth Certificate Weights*" at the 2nd Annual Congress of Epidemiology held in Seattle, WA, June 21-24.

Raymond Skeps presented a poster entitled "*Bronchial Hyper-Responsiveness in Relation to Secondhand Smoke Exposure*" at the FAMRi 5th Scientific Symposium held in Boston, May 10-12.

Mark Travers, M.S. was an invited speaker at the California Department of Health Services, Tobacco Control Section conference for Smoke-Free California: Where We Live, Work and Play held in San Diego, CA May 14-16, 2006. The title of his presentation was "*Measuring and Determining the Risks of SHS Exposure*." Mark was also an invited presenter for his paper entitled "*Smoke-Free Air Policy: Changing What's in the Air and in the Body*," and also presented a training workshop "*Making the Case for Smoke-Free Air: Conducting Indoor Air Quality Studies*" at the 13th World Conference on Tobacco OR Health (WCTOH) held in Washington, DC, July 12-15. He also presented a workshop with **Andrew Hyland**, Ph.D. entitled "*ITC Protocol for Measuring Exposure to Secondhand Tobacco Smoke*" at the Measuring the Effectiveness of Tobacco Control pre-conference to the 13th World Conference on Tobacco OR Health in Bethesda, MD, July 10-12, 2006.

Jean Wactawski-Wende, Ph.D. was invited to present at the Society for Gynecologic Investigation (SGI) meeting held in Toronto on March 24. She presented the results of the Women's Health Initiative randomized clinical trial on calcium plus vitamin D and colorectal cancer. Dr. Wactawski-Wende was also invited to present "*Calcium Plus Vitamin D and Colorectal Cancer: WHI Trial Findings*" at the NIH Symposium on the Women's Health Initiative. The meeting was held at the Natcher Center on the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD in February 2006.

News and Notes

Martin Mahoney, M.D., Ph.D., served as vice chair for the Psychosocial, Behavioral and Policy Research Review Committee for the American Cancer Society in January and June 2006. He was also recently appointed member of the American Cancer Society Primary Care Advisory Committee; member of the Special Emphasis Panel/Scientific Review Group ZCA1 SRRB-Y Minority Institute/Cancer Center Partnership at the National Institutes of Health; co-chair of the Dialogue for Action to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screening in New York State; and appointed associate editor for CA-A cancer journal for clinicians. Dr. Mahoney was also a participant in the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Breast Cancer Risk Reduction Panel held in Chicago in August 2006.

September 2006 Graduates

The following student successfully completed all degree requirements established by the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine and the University at Buffalo for September 2006 degree conferral. Congratulations!

Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Community Health

Barbara Fuhrman, Ph.D., "*Dietary Phytoestrogens and Endogenous Hormones as Determinants of Mammographic Density in Postmenopausal Women.*" Mentors include Drs. Paola Muti (major), Peter Horvath, Brydon Grant and Roger Priore.

New Students

The Department of Social and Preventive Medicine welcomes the following students for Fall 2006:

Ph.D. Epidemiology and Community Health

The following Ph.D. students were also awarded graduate assistantships in the Department of SPM for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Christopher Bole, B.A. and M.A. mathematics, SUNY College at Brockport; M.S. business management, Roberts Wesleyan College.

Brian King, B.S. biological sciences and M.P.H., University at Buffalo.

Michelle Roberts, B.A. chemistry and M.A. physical anthropology, Wayne State University.

M.S. Epidemiology

Demetrius Moutsiakis, B.A. chemistry and M.D., SUNY Stony Brook; M.P.H., University of Rochester. Demetrius is a preventive medicine resident in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine.

Mahrin Raman, B.A. anthropology/evolutionary biology and M.P.H., Case Western Reserve University.

Melissa Robins, B.A. psychology, University at Buffalo.

Melanie Ruszczyk, B.A. biology, Grinnell College. Melanie is a research technologist at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

M.P.H.

Harvey Berman, B.Sc. chemistry, City University of New York, Brooklyn College; Ph.D. University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Harvey is a professor in the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences at the University at Buffalo.

David Brooks, B.S. business, Cornell. David is currently in the MD/MBA/MPH program at the University of Buffalo.

Raprakash Chennamaneni, M.B.B.S., NTR University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada, India.

Sarah Couch, B.A. political science/sociology, SUNY College at Plattsburgh. Sarah is currently a JD student at the University at Buffalo.

Christina Crabtree, B.A. public policy, Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

Tsering Dhondup, M.B.B.S., Maulana Azad Medical College New Delhi. Tsering a Tibetan Fulbright Scholar.

Danielle Drayer, B.S. behavioral neuroscience, CUNY Graduate Center. Danielle is currently a JD student at the University at Buffalo.

Jacqueline Gardner, B.S. biology, SUNY College at Geneseo.

Yoly Gonzalez-Stucker, D.D.S., Universidad Central, M.S. oral sciences, University at Buffalo. Yoly is an assistant professor in the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences at the School of Dental Medicine, University at Buffalo.

Jennifer Graf, B.A. psychology, Daemen College. Jennifer is a research support specialist in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Behavioral Medicine at the University at Buffalo.

Nancy Grier, B.A. English, Ripon College.

Shalaka Hampras, M.B.B.S., Dr DY Pati Medical College, Pune, India.

Ronald Houston, B.A. psychology, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, B.S/M.S. occupational therapy, D'Youville College

Cheryl Kennedy, B.A psychology, Buffalo State College, M.S.W. University at Buffalo. Cheryl is the project director for the Buffalo Obese Subjects Study at the University at Buffalo.

Shauna Lawless, B.S. biology, Canisius College; M.D. University at Buffalo. Shauna is a preventive medicine resident in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine

Allen Leavens, B.S. biology and M.D., University at Buffalo. Allen is a preventive medicine resident in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine.

Anthony Lister, B.S. chemistry, Hartwick College. Anthony is currently a dental student at the University of Buffalo.

Abbi Pierce, B.A.S. community health education, University of Minnesota.

Carleen Pope, B.S. biology, Niagara University. Carleen is a research associate at the Hauptman Woodward Medical Research Institute.

Denise Rokitka, B.S. biology, Canisius College; M.D., Ross University School of Medicine, Dominica, West Indies. Denise is a fellow at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Joshua Sabet, B.A. political science, University of Florida. Joshua is currently a JD student at the University of Buffalo.

Jenny Shen, B.S. molecular genetics SUNY at Fredonia. Jenny is currently a medical student at the University of Buffalo.

Nelissa Thibado, B.S. biology, University at Buffalo.

Shelly Tsai, B.A. history, University of California at Los Angeles. Shelly is currently a JD student at the University at Buffalo

Preventive Medicine Residency Program

Drs. **Shauna Lawless**, **Allen Leavens** and **Demetrius Moutsiakis** began their PGY II in the Preventive Medicine Residency Program. Shauna received her M.D. from the University at Buffalo in 2005 and completed her first year of residency in pediatrics at Women's and Children's Hospital of Buffalo. Allen received his M.D. from the University at Buffalo in 2005 and completed his first year of residency in internal medicine at the University at Buffalo. Demetrius was awarded his M.D. from SUNY Stony Brook in 1997 and his M.P.H. from the University of Rochester in 2005. Demetrius completed his first year of residency training in medicine at SUNY Stony Brook.

GSA Officers Elected

The Graduate Student Association of the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine elected new officers for the 2006-2007 academic year: **Ted Brasky** (president), **Demetrius Moutsiakis** (vice president), **Nancy Grier** (secretary); **Margaret DiVita** (treasurer), and **Christopher Bole** and **Danielle Drayer** (senators).