

# SPM NEWS

## Department of Social & Preventive Medicine

School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP)

State University of New York at Buffalo

<http://sphhp.buffalo.edu/spm>

February 2007

Marcia Wopperer, editor

### *The Director's Corner*

We are pleased to welcome Michael LaMonte, Ph.D. who has recently joined our department as an assistant professor. Michael received his M.S. in Physical Education from Marshall University in 1992, his Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology from the University of Utah in 1997 and his M.P.H. from the University of South Carolina in 2000. His research interests focus on the epidemiology of physical activity, particularly in relation to cardiovascular disease and also in relation to other outcomes. Michael was formerly the director of the Division of Epidemiology at the Cooper Institute in Dallas from 2003 to 2006. Please feel free to drop by his office to welcome him. We are very happy to have him join us!

The Departments of Social and Preventive Medicine and Health Behavior continue their ongoing searches for several new faculty members. A search is underway for the director of the Division of Environmental Epidemiology, which will be housed within the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine. The School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP) is also searching for the chair of the new Department of Public Health Policy, Practice, and Management.

Congratulations to the students who presented posters at the SPHHP J. Warren Perry Lecture on February 9. The posters looked marvelous. As a reminder, the Department has funds for Robert O'Shea Travel Awards to support M.P.H., M.S. and Ph.D. students to present oral or poster presentations at scientific meetings such as the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER), the American Public Health Association (APHA), or the American Heart Association (AHA) conferences. All students intending to submit abstracts to professional meetings must obtain written approval from their advisor and submit the abstract to the SPM finance committee prior to submission.

We are continuing 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 health behavior, please contact Dr. Gary Giovino. If you are interested in an MPH with a concentration in environmental epidemiology, please contact me.

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

### *Honors and Awards*



**Christine Ambrosone**, Ph.D. received the Thomas B. Tomasi Achievement Award. The award honors a Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI) faculty member whose work has made significant advances in the fight against cancer. As an innovator in the field of molecular epidemiology, Dr. Ambrosone's many accomplishments include her appointment as chairperson for the Molecular Epidemiology Group of the American Association for Cancer Research, a five-year \$3.7 million grant from the NCI to study non-small cell lung cancer in smokers and nonsmokers; and a four-year \$2.4 million grant from the NCI to study antioxidant supplement effects during chemotherapy. She is also co-investigator for a landmark "Women's Health After Breast Cancer" initiative and has been instrumental in establishing Roswell Park's Data Bank and BioRepository to collect biological samples, medical and lifestyle data from thousands of cancer patients and healthy adults.



**Ted Brasky**, M.S., received an award for the population-based science category at the SPHHP J. Warren Perry Poster Session for his poster entitled “*Tonsillectomy and Breast Cancer Risk in the Western New York Diet Study.*”



**Mary Platek**, M.S. was selected to receive an American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) – AstraZeneca Scholar-in-Training Award for her abstract entitled “*Breast Tumor Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) Mutations: The Western New York Exposures and Breast Cancer Study (WEB Study).*” This highly competitive award provides \$1,000 to young investigators to support attendance at the AACR Annual Meeting.

---

## ***SPHHP Core Curriculum***

---

The University at Buffalo’s School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP) has received a \$257,000 two-year grant from the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation to implement a common core curriculum throughout all of the school’s academic programs. The new curriculum as planned will unite the curricula for the five departments in the school and their multiple degree programs around the common theme of prevention, population health and wellness. It will provide the opportunity for students to train together and to be aware of the societal forces that shape the health and well being of individuals and communities. This approach will ensure a common understanding and focus among students in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs. The full core curriculum, which will be required of all SPHHP students, is scheduled to be in place by 2010, although some elements will be introduced sooner. Dale Fish, Ph.D., associate professor of rehabilitation science and associate dean for academic and student affairs at the school is principal investigator for the new curriculum development grant.

---

## ***American Association for Cancer Research***

---

The 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) will be held in Los Angeles, CA on April 14-18. In recognition of the collective progress in the understanding and eradication of cancer, this year’s annual meeting is appropriately themed: *A Century of Leadership in Science – A Future of Cancer Prevention and Cures*. The following SPM posters were accepted for presentation: **Ted Brasky**, M.S., “*Tonsillectomy and Breast Cancer Risk in the Western New York Diet Study*”; **Mary Platek**, M.S., “*Breast Tumor Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) Mutations: The Western New York Exposures and Breast Cancer Study (WEB Study)*”; and **Menghua Tao**, Ph.D., “*DNA Hypermethylation and Clinicopathological Features in Breast Cancer: The Western New York Breast Cancer (WEB) Study.*”

---

## ***J. Warren Perry Lecture***

---

The School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP) 18<sup>th</sup> Annual J. Warren Perry Lecture was held on February 9 at the Lippes Concert Hall, North Campus. Poster presentations were made by the following SPM students/fellows/faculty:

**Matthew Bonner**, Ph.D., “*Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH)-laden Smoky Coal Exposure, Mitochondrial DNA Mass and the Risk of Lung Cancer*”

**Ted Brasky**, M.S., “*Tonsillectomy and Breast Cancer in Western New York*”

**Renee Brennan**, Ph.D., “*Associations Between Systemic Bone Density, Oral Bone Loss, and Local Inflammation Characterized by Periodontal Infection*”

**Gabrielle Foley**, M.P.H., “*Western New York Wellness Works (WNYWW): Comparing Individual Employee Health Risks and Lifestyle Habits to Environmental Supports for Wellness*”

**David Jaworowicz**, M.S., *“Assessment of Early Life Exposures: Agreement Between Self-Reported Birth Weight and Birth Certificate Weights”*

**Brian King**, M.P.H., *“Surveillance of Western New York Tobacco Retailer Marketing Practices”*

**Amy Millen**, Ph.D., *“Vitamin D Receptor (VDR) Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms, VDR Haplotypes and Risk of Breast Cancer”*

**Demetrius Moutsiaakis**, M.D., M.P.H. *“Why Blacks Do Not Take Part in HIV Vaccine Trials”*

**Reem Mustata**, M.D., *“Changing Pattern of Care of Elderly Chronic Kidney Disease Patients”* and *“The International Supply to the U.S. Physician Workforce: Historical Trends and Characteristics”*

**Luke Peppone**, M.S., *“Association Between Colorectal Cancer, Active Smoking, Passive Smoking and Age at Diagnosis”* and *“Long-Term Cigarette Smoking, Second-Hand Smoke Exposure, and Risk of Colorectal Cancer”*

**Mary Platek**, M.S., *“Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) Mutations and Risk of Breast Cancer: The Western New York Exposures and Breast Cancer Study (WEB Study)”*

**Lisa Rafalson**, M.S., *“Do Emerging Risk Factors Improve Prediction of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus?”*

**Karol Rejman**, Ph.D., *“Does E-selectin Predict Incident Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus? The Western New York Follow-Up Study?”*

**Raymond Skeps**, M.S., *“Bronchial Hyper-Responsiveness in Relation to Secondhand Smoke Exposure”* and *“The Relation of Adipokines and Adiponectin to Change in Weight or Fat Distribution Over a Six-year Prospective Study”*

**Menghua Tao**, Ph.D., *“Polymorphisms in the P450 19A1 (Aromatase) Gene and Endometrial Cancer Risk in Chinese Women”*

**Barbara Teter**, Ph.D., *“Aspirin Use and Mammographic Breast Density as a Marker of Breast Cancer Risk in Postmenopausal Women”*

**Mark Travers**, M.S., *“Evaluation of an Intervention to Correct Smokers’ Misperceptions About Their Cigarettes”* and *“Global Air Monitoring Study: A 25-Country Comparison of Levels of Indoor Air Pollution in Different Workplaces”*

**Amy Van Deusen**, M.P.H., *“Pilot Study of Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Homes”*

## ***Faculty/Student Presentations***

**Brian King**, M.P.H. presented two posters at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) held in Austin, TX from February 21-24: *“Patient-Reported Smoking Cessation Counseling and Future Smoking Behavior”* and *“Surveillance of Western New York Tobacco Retailer Marketing Practices.”*

**Luke Peppone**, M.S. presented the following papers at the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) International Conference on Frontiers in Cancer Prevention Research held in Boston, MA in November 2006: *“Association Between Colorectal Cancer, Cigarette Smoking, Second-Hand Smoke Exposure, and Age at Diagnosis,”* *“Long-Term Cigarette Smoking, Second-Hand Smoke Exposure, and Risk of Colorectal Cancer”* and *“Cigarette Smoking, Bladder Cancer, and Change in Risk Over 40 Years.”* Luke also presented his *“Cigarette Smoking, Bladder Cancer, and Change in Risk Over 40 Years”* paper at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) held in Austin, TX from February 21-24.

**Saverio Stranges**, Ph.D. presented a poster entitled "*Effects of Selenium Supplementation on Type 2 Diabetes Incidence: Secondary Analyses in a Randomized Clinical Trial*" at the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention of the American Heart Association held in Orlando, FL February 28 to March 3.

---

## **News and Notes**

---

**Jo Freudenheim**, Ph.D., will present the Lydia J. Roberts Memorial Lecture at the University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, on March 8.

**Barbara Fuhrman**, Ph.D., was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship from Roswell Park Cancer Institute to study genetic and environmental predictors of smoking cessation.

**Amy Sonricker**, M.P.H. ('06) has recently accepted a position as project manager for the International Society for Disease Surveillance in Boston, MA.

**John Violanti**, Ph.D. served as a panelist for *High Impact: Crime, Accidents, Substance Abuse and Trauma* at the CASACONFERENCE, Compound Fractures: Substance Abuse and Trauma sponsored by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

---

## **February 2007 Graduates**

---

The following students successfully completed all degree requirements established by the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine and the University at Buffalo for February 2007 degree conferral. Congratulations!

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

**Karol Rejman**, Ph.D., "*Biomarkers of Endothelial Function and Early Renal Impairment: Associations With Incidence Type 2 Diabetes: The Western New York Health Study.*" Committee members include Drs. Richard Donahue (major), Joan Dorn and Jacek Dmochowski. Karol is a research assistant professor at the School of Nursing, University at Buffalo.

**Hamed Rezaishiraz**, M.D., Ph.D., "*Phase II Study to Assess the Benefit of Very Low Nicotine Cigarettes as a Smoking Cessation Treatment.*" Committee members include Drs. Andrew Hyland (major), K. Michael Cummings and Martin Mahoney.

**Barbara Teter**, Ph.D., "*The Association of Endogenous Pineal Hormone Melatonin and Mammographic Breast Density in Postmenopausal Women.*" Committee members include Drs. Paola Muti (major), Ellen Smit, Peter Horvath and Randy Carter. Barbara has accepted a position as Director of Research and Development at the New York State Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, Jacobs Neurological Institute.

**Joli Weiss**, Ph.D., "*Polymorphisms in the Glutathione S-Transferase Genes and Treatment Outcomes in Acute Myeloid Leukemia.*" Committee members include Drs. Kirsten Moysich (major), Christine Ambrosone, Maria Baer and Javier Blanco. Joli is a research associate at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

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

**Raymond Skeps**, M.S., "*Gender Differences: The Relationship Between Adipokines or Adiponectin and Change in Weight or Fat Distribution in Healthy Men and Women Over a Six Year Prospective Study.*" Committee members include Drs. Richard Donahue (major), Joan Dorn and Saverio Stranges. Ray is continuing his studies in the Ph.D. Program in Epidemiology and Community Health in the Department of SPM.

**M.P.H.**

**Gerald Stevens**, D.C., M.S., M.P.H., *“Behavioral and Access Barriers to Seeking Chiropractic Care.”* Committee members include Drs. Dennis Bertram (major) and William Scheider. Gerald is currently an instructor at New York Chiropractic College at the Depew Health Center.

**Amy VanDeusen**, M.P.H., *“Pilot Study on Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Homes.”* Committee members include Drs. Andrew Hyland (major) and Carl Li. Amy is a research associate at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.