

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>



June 2007

Marcia Wopperer, editor

The Director's Corner

Commencement for the School of Public Health and Health Professions was held on May 12 at the Center for the Arts. Nineteen M.P.H., M.S. and Ph.D. students from the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine were included in the roster of degree conferrals. Congratulations to our graduates and best wishes in their future endeavors!

We are happy to announce three new appointments to the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine.

Amy Millen has been appointed assistant professor effective March 2007. Dr. Millen received her B.S. in biology from Bucknell University in 1996 and her Ph.D. in nutritional sciences from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2002. She was awarded a Cancer Research Training Award Postdoctoral Fellowship from the National Cancer Institute from 2002 to 2004; and a Breast Cancer Research Postdoctoral Fellowship from the New York State Health Research Science Board, Breast Cancer Research Education Program from 2006 to 2008. Dr. Millen joined the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine in 2005 as a research assistant professor. She has extensive experience with dietary assessment methods and analyzing diet and disease relationships in varied, large population datasets. Her interests include how dietary intake affects the etiology and pathology of cancer, diabetes and eye disease, with emphasis on micronutrient intake, particularly vitamin D.

Richard Harding joined the Department in April as assistant to the chair. Dick brings with him many years of administrative experience in the University having served as resource manager in the Departments of Media Study, History, and Theatre and Dance; as administrator in the Department of Sociology; and administrator/chief financial officer in the Department of Otolaryngology at the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. He received his B.A. in political science from Alfred University and his M.A. in international relations from the University of Arkansas.

Heather Ochs-Balcom, Ph.D., a 2004 graduate from SPM has completed her postdoctoral fellowship in genetic epidemiology at Case Western Reserve University and will join the department in August as a research assistant professor. Heather received her B.S. in biology in 1997 and M.S. in biology in 2000 from Clarion University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Ochs-Balcom's research is focused on an understanding of genetic factors in chronic disease epidemiology, especially cancer of the esophagus.

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.*

Honors and Awards



Renee Brennan, Ph.D. was awarded the 2007 Saxon Graham Award for academic excellence in epidemiology.



Reem Mustafa, M.B.B.S., received the 2006-2007 Outstanding Teaching Resident Award from the Office of Graduate Medical Education, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo.



Mary Platek, M.S., was nominated by SPHHP for the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP) Scholarship of Excellence Award. The award recognizes allied health students who are achieving excellence in their academic program and have significant potential to assume future leadership roles in the allied health program.



Melanie Ruszczyk has been awarded a Kosciuszko Foundation scholarship for the Fall 2007 semester. Awards are made based on academic excellence and achievements to students of Polish descent.



Jean Wactawski-Wende, Ph.D. was the Distinguished Speaker at the University at Buffalo Institute for Research and Education on Women and Gender's 2007 Distinguished Faculty Lecture held on March 26. The title of her presentation was "Women's Health Studies at UB."

American Public Health Association

"Politics, Policy and Public Health" is the theme of the 135th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA) to be held November 3-7 in Washington, DC. Share new perspectives on public health with your peers. Register by August 23 for special savings! Information and registration is available online at www.apha.org/meetings. SPHHP will sponsor a graduate student recruitment booth. Be sure to drop by if you are attending the meeting.

Society for Epidemiology Research

The 40th Annual Meeting of the Society for Epidemiology Research (SER) was held June 19-22 in Boston, MA. Poster presentations from SPM were made by **David Jaworowicz, Jr.**, M.S., "Pregnancy-Related Characteristics and Maternal Risk of Breast Cancer;" and **Maurizio Trevisan**, M.D., M.S., "Oxidation Diabetes and Coronary Heart Disease a Complex Interaction: Findings from a Population-Based Study."

Faculty/Student Presentations

Matthew Bonner, Ph.D., presented a poster entitled "Mitochondrial DNA Content and the Risk of Lung Cancer" at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research held April 14-18 in Los Angeles, CA.

Gary Giovino, Ph.D. was invited to present a paper entitled "Fruit and Vegetable Consumption, Physical Activity and Smoking Status: Exploring Pre- and Post-Cessation Relationships" at the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Prevention and Control Colloquia Series held on April 25th. Dr. Giovino was also invited to present a paper entitled "Optimal Monitoring of the Tobacco Epidemic: What Cohort Studies Add" at the Innovations in Building Consumer Demand for Tobacco Cessation Products and Services meeting held May 4th in Washington, DC.

Michael LaMonte, Ph.D., was an invited speaker at the National American College of Sports Medicine meeting held in New Orleans, LA in May. The title of his presentation was "Exercise Testing in Non-Cardiology Settings: Enduring Underutilization and Office-Based Physical Activity Assessment: Methods and Pitfalls."

Susan McCann, Ph.D., was an invited presenter at the International Conference on Lignans, Alkylresorcinols and Health held June 7-9 in Helsinki, Finland. She presented a paper was entitled "Dietary Lignan Intakes and Breast Tumor Characteristics."

Reem Mustafa, M.B.B.S., presented a poster entitled "The Effect of Restructuring an Internal Medicine Night Float System: A Before and After Survey of Residents and Attendings" at the University at Buffalo's 10th Annual Resident Scholarly Exchange Day held on May 4.

Faculty/Student Research

Susan McCann, Ph.D. was awarded a three-year \$723,030 grant entitled "Flaxseed vs. Aromatase Inhibitors: Breast Tumor Characteristics and Prognosis" from the NIH National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. The proposed study is a pilot 2x2 factorial randomized intervention study between tumor biopsy and resection in postmenopausal women diagnosed with ER positive breast cancer to assess the effects of flaxseed and aromatase inhibitors on a number of steroid hormone and tumor-related characteristics associated with long-term survival, and to investigate the potential interaction between flaxseed and AIs on these biomarkers.

Kirsten Moysich, Ph.D., is principal investigator for a \$300,000 three-year grant from the Susan G. Komen Foundation entitled "Regulatory T Cells and Breast Cancer Risk." The purpose of the study is to evaluate the role of regulatory T cells in the etiology of breast cancer.

John Violanti, Ph.D. has received a one-year \$25,500 grant supplement from NIOSH for his project "Associations Between Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms, Brain Function, and Brain Structure." This study will utilize magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to determine changes in brain function and structure which may occur as a result of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

News and Notes

Keshani Bhushan, M.B.B.S., M.P.H. ('03) will begin her residency training in internal medicine at the University at Buffalo on July 1.

Ted Brasky was accepted as a participant for the "Pathobiology of Cancer" workshop sponsored by the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) to be held in Snowmass, CO in July.

Renee Brennan, Ph.D. has been accepted to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's two year Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer program. She will begin the program on July 1 at the Salt Lake City State Health Department.

Vijay Jayaprakash was awarded a summer internship at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in Lyon, France. The title of his project is "The International Lung Cancer Consortium (ILCCO): Pooled Analysis on Tobacco Smoking for Rare Histology."

Shauna Lawless, M.D., was selected for a practicum rotation in adolescent health and preventive medicine from the American College of Preventive Medicine.

Allen Leavens, M.D. has been selected as the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR) resident representative to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Organization of Resident Representatives (ORR). Dr. Leavens was also selected for a Pfizer practicum rotation in health policy and preventive medicine from the American College of Preventive Medicine, and selected for an Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR) Office of Disease Prevention Health Promotion (ODPHP) preventive medicine resident rotation.

Michael LaMonte, Ph.D. has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the American College of Sports Medicine.

Demetrius Moutsiakis, M.D., was selected for a Pfizer practicum rotation in health policy and preventive medicine from the American College of Preventive Medicine.

Kirsten Moysich, Ph.D., has been appointed member of the California Breast Cancer Research Program Special Research Initiatives Strategy Committee; and also member of the Scientific Advisory Board for the Sister Study, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

Philip Nasca, Ph.D. ('82) has been appointed dean of the University at Albany School of Public Health.

June 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 June 2007 degree conferral. Congratulations!

Master of Public Health

Dale Bauman, "Federal Abstinence-Only Sex Ed Regulations: A Policy Analysis." Committee members include Drs. Dennis Bertram (major) and Carl Li. Dale will begin his studies at Hofstra Law School in September.

Kelly Dearing, "Purchases of Food in Youth: Examining Factors That Affect Substitution." Committee members include Drs. Leonard Epstein (major) and Carl Li. Kelly is a research assistant in the Department of Behavioral Medicine at the University at Buffalo.

Lhakpa Dolma, "Public Health Promotion Program." Committee members include Drs. Joan Dorn (major) and Dennis Bertram.

Andrew Lo, "Socioeconomic Status and Asthma Prevalence." Committee members include Drs. Dennis Bertram (major) and William Scheider.

Reem A. Mustafa, M.B.B.S., "International Medical Graduates as Active Physicians in the US: Historical Trends and Characteristics." Committee members include Drs. Carl Li (major) and Holger Schunemann. Reem will continue her studies as a resident/fellow in the Department of Nephrology at the University at Buffalo.

Anne Marie Reynolds, M.D. "Factors Associated With the Decision to Provide Breast Milk by Mothers of Infants Admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit." Committee members include Drs. Dennis Bertram (major) and Jean Wactawski-Wende. Anne Marie is an assistant professor of clinical pediatrics at the University at Buffalo.

Ph.D. Epidemiology and Community Health

Ravi Menezes, M.Sc., "Characterizing a Cohort at Risk for Lung Cancer." Committee members include Drs. Kirsten Moysich (major), Mary Reid, and Michael Higgins. Ravi was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Toronto's Department of Medical Imaging.

Luke Peppone, M.S., "The Association Between Cigarette Smoking and Colorectal Cancer Over Five Decades." Committee members include Drs. Andrew Hyland (major), Kirsten Moysich, and Mary Reid. Luke has accepted a position as research assistant professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Rochester.

Lisa Rafalson, M.S., “*Association Between Inflammatory Biomarkers and Incident Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus: The Western New York Study.*” Committee members include Drs. Richard Donahue (major), Joan Dorn and Jacek Dmochowski.

M.D./Ph.D. Epidemiology and Community Health

Julie Baker, M.S., “*Impact of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Disaster on Reproductive Beliefs and Decision.*” Committee members include Drs. Kirsten Moysich (major), Jean Wactawski-Wende and Michael Zevon. Julie will begin her residency in OB-GYN at Brown University, Women’s and Children’s Hospital of RI.

New Course for Fall 2007

SPM 554 Introduction to Occupational Health (3 credits)

Instructor: Andrea Kuettel, J.D., M.P.H.

Tuesdays 6:00-8:20 p.m.

A survey course designed to familiarize students with the field of occupational health and the professional disciplines that contribute to the field, including medicine, nursing, industrial hygiene and safety, law, and epidemiology. Students are expected to become familiar with the nature of research in occupational health, gain competency in skills needed to conduct basic assessments of workers and work sites, and become conversant in various policy issues.