

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>



October 2007

Marcia Wopperer, editor

The Director's Corner

As the new semester begins, we have a number of significant changes.

We wish a fond farewell to **Maurizio Trevisan**, M.D., M.S. who is leaving the University at Buffalo to accept a position as vice chancellor and chief executive officer of the University of Nevada Health Sciences Systems, Nevada System of Higher Education. His new responsibilities include developing an efficient academic university system that improves health care delivery and access to care; and promoting the development of multi-professional health and wellness research. Dr. Trevisan joined the Department of SPM in 1985 as assistant professor, served as interim chair from 1991-1992, and professor and chair from 1993-2003. He became interim dean of the newly formed School of Public Health and Health Professions in 2003 and was appointed founding dean the following year. As a renowned cardiovascular epidemiologist, his awards include the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences 1999 Stockton Kimball Award honoring faculty for academic accomplishment and worldwide recognition as an investigator and researcher, and the 2002 SUNY Chancellor's Research Recognition Award acknowledging his research accomplishments. Maurizio will be missed as both a friend and colleague. We wish him every success in his new endeavor.

Lynn Kozlowski, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Health Behavior, has been named interim dean. Dr. Kozlowski joined the School of Public Health and Health Professions to head the new Department of Health Behavior in 2006. Prior to his appointment at UB, he held the position of professor and head of Biobehavioral Health at the College of Health and Human Development at Pennsylvania State University. He has also served as senior scientist and head of the Behavioral Research Program on Tobacco Use at the Addiction Research Foundation in Toronto, and also professor of Preventive

Medicine and Biostatistics, and professor of Psychology at the University of Toronto. Dr. Kozlowski holds an M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. from Columbia University. His research interest is focused on smoking and health and various aspects of tobacco use. In 2003 he was awarded the Pauline Schmitt Russell Distinguished Research Career Award honoring a senior faculty member at the College of Health and Human Development at Penn State who has made outstanding research contributions to the field. A national search for a new dean will begin soon.

Gary Giovino, Ph.D. has accepted the position as acting chair in the Department of Health Behavior. He will also continue to serve as Director of Graduate Studies in the department.

We are pleased to welcome **Carole Rudra**, Ph.D., M.P.H. as assistant professor in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine. Dr. Rudra is a perinatal epidemiologist with an interest in the role of behavioral and environmental exposures on perinatal outcomes. She received a B.A. in biology from Agnes Scott College in 1999, an M.P.H. (Epidemiology) from Emory University in 2001, and a Ph.D. in Epidemiology from the University of Washington in 2005. She was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship from the University of Washington from 2005-2007.

Jess Alderman, M.D., J.D., was recently appointed Director of the JD/MPH Program. Dr. Alderman received her M.D. from the University of California, and J.D. from Harvard Law School where she taught legal research and writing as a member of the Board of Student Advisors. She has also worked as a health management consultant in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. Dr. Alderman will fill the role left by **Sheila Shulman**, J.D., who will retire from the University in December 2007. Sheila was instrumental in implementing the collaborative program in law and public health and has served as director of both the JD/MPH and JD/PharmD Programs since 2000.

We are happy to announce that pre-accreditation for the School has been approved. Data collection for the self-study document is ongoing. We anticipate completion of the document by Spring 2008 for submission to the Council for Education in Public Health.

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

Honors and Awards



The BioCycle study has been selected to receive the 2007 NIH Merit Award. This study was selected "in recognition for creative epidemiologic design and methodologic rigor in successful completion of the BioCycle Study." The study was funded by a NICHD contract to the University at Buffalo. Investigators include Dr. Jean Wactawski-Wende (PI), and Drs. Richard Browne and Maurizio Trevisan. The award was presented to Dr. Enrique Schisterman (PI, NICHD) on October 4th at the Director's meeting.



Roswell Park Cancer Institute won the Global Smoke-free Partnership Award for Research for an outstanding, sustained contribution to the evidence base for effective smoke-free policies. The award was presented at the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) meeting held September 5-7 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. SRNT is a multi-partner international group which link scientists with advocates and policy makers to push for smoke-free policy change.



Daniela Geba, M.D., and Mahrin Rahman, M.P.H., were awarded Presidential/Woodburn Fellowships from the University at Buffalo. The fellowship, which includes a partial stipend with tuition scholarship, is aimed at recruiting outstanding graduate students.



Reem Mustafa, M.B.B.S., was awarded the 2007 Outstanding Resident Teacher Award from the Office of Graduate Medical Education at the University at Buffalo. Dr. Mustafa is completing her fourth year in the Internal Medicine/Preventive Medicine Residency Program.



Jean Wactawski-Wende, Ph.D. received recognition for her paper entitled "*Calcium Plus Vitamin D Supplementation and the Risk of Colorectal Cancer.*" Her paper was selected for the 2006 issue of the Annual Bibliography of Significant Advances in Dietary Supplements Research. Of the 300 papers evaluated, only 25 appear in the final copy. The publication is designed to provide peer recognition to investigators involved in research that advances understanding of dietary supplements.

SPM and RPCI Awarded Cancer Epidemiology Training Grant

The Department of SPM has just received a new, five-year grant from the National Cancer Institute that will provide funding for training doctoral students in cancer epidemiology. **Jo Freudenheim, Ph.D.,** principal investigator, is joined by colleagues both from SPM and RPCI in this exciting new opportunity which will expand and enrich our current training program in cancer. The focus of the training grant is to provide training that integrates at least one other discipline besides epidemiology in both research and didactic experiences. Trainees will be involved in a multidisciplinary curriculum that expands on the established course requirements in epidemiology and will be tailored to each pre-doctoral fellow's research interests as they relate to cancer epidemiology and prevention. Pre-doctoral students participating in this program will develop a strong background in the biology of cancer and cancer epidemiology which will prepare them for the rapidly advancing field of cancer epidemiology. In addition, pre-doctoral students will develop the skills required to work with multidisciplinary teams to achieve their research and career goals. The training program will cover tuition, other training experiences, some research costs and a stipend for the trainees. Students interested in learning more about the program should contact Dr. Freudenheim. For information regarding application requirements, contact Terri Raimondo at traimond@buffalo.edu.

Christopher Bole and **Michelle Roberts** were selected to receive pre-doctoral fellowships for the first year of the training program.

Follow-up Planned for the New York State Angler Cohort Study

Drs. **Matthew Bonner** (principal Investigator) and **Michael LaMonte** (co-investigator) have been awarded an R01 grant to conduct active follow-up in the New York State Angler Cohort Study. The New York State Angler Cohort is a large prospective study initiated in 1991 by John Vena, Ph.D. The cohort is comprised of nearly 19,000 anglers and their spouses and was originally designed to investigate potential reproductive and developmental risks posed by the consumption of Great Lakes fish contaminated with PCBs, organochlorine insecticides, and heavy metals. Current research activities are directed towards investigating the effects of long-term consumption of Great Lakes fish and the risks of adult chronic diseases, including thyroid disease, endometriosis, and cancer. This research initiative is funded for three years by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Faculty/Student Research

Jo Freudenheim, Ph.D. is principal investigator of a \$998,770 four-year UB subcontract from the Department of Defense entitled "*Breast Cancer Epidemiology in Puerto Rico*." While the rate of breast cancer in Puerto Rico is lower than in the rest of the U.S., breast cancer incidence is increasing at a higher rate. The grant will provide funds for developing infrastructure and interviewing for a case-control study of breast cancer in Puerto Rico, examining diet, physical activity, genetic factors and early life exposure in relation to risk.

Andrew Hyland, Ph.D. was awarded a three-year, \$331,851 grant from the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute of Miami, FL to expand a global secondhand-smoke research network. The network will encompass 30 countries and will address specific research gaps relevant to the drafting of public health policies around the world.

Faculty/Student Presentations

Brian King, M.P.H., presented two posters at the National Conference on Tobacco or Health: "*Socioeconomic Variation in the Prevalence of Point of Purchase Cigarette Advertising Across New York State*" and "*Patient-Reported Smoking Cessation Counseling and Future Smoking Behavior*." The conference was held in Minneapolis, October 24-26.

John Violanti, Ph.D., presented a poster entitled "*Adiposity and Depression Among Police Officers*" at the American College of Epidemiology Annual Conference held on September 17 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

General Preventive Medicine Residency Program

Nicoleta Voian, M.D., began her PGY II in the Preventive Medicine Residency Program on July 1. Nicoleta received her M.D. from the Universitatea de Medicina si Farmacie, Romania in 1991 and completed her first year of residency in Internal Medicine at the University at Buffalo.

News and Notes

Stefanie Bolas, **Ted Brasky**, **Daniela Geba**, **Mahrin Rahman** and **Stephanie Wasch** were awarded graduate assistantships in the Department of SPM for the 2007-08 academic year.

Bethany Gilbert, M.P.H., ('05) was accepted to the Rising Leaders Program which brings together up-and-coming leaders and prepares them for leadership roles.

Shauna Lawless, M.D., has been appointed to the Residency Review Committee (RRC) of the American Council on Graduate Medical Education.

Paula Rosenbaum, Ph.D. ('98) has been promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine at the SUNY Upstate Medicine University in Syracuse.

Public Health Law Symposium

The University at Buffalo Law School and School of Public Health and Health Professions will sponsor a symposium entitled "*Limited Health Care Resources: Prioritizing Access in a Community Emergency – A Cross-Border Perspective*" on Friday, November 16 at the Center for the Arts. The full-day program will examine U.S. and Canadian perspectives on equitable allocation of scarce medical resources. What legal, medical, ethical and political factors come into play as prioritization models for limited distribution are designed and implemented? Keynote speakers include Dr. Tia Powell, Executive Director, New York State Task Force on Life and Law, and Allison Stuart, Director, Emergency Management Unit, Ministry of Health, Province of Ontario. For information and registration contact the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy at 645-2102.

SPM Graduate Student Association

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) of the Department of SPM recently elected new officers for the 2007-2008 academic year: **Ray Skeps** (president), **Brian King** (vice president), **Karen Sereday** (treasurer), **Michael Ray** (secretary). **Ted Brasky** and **Mahrin Rahman** will serve as senators.

September 2007 Graduates

The following students successfully completed all degree requirements established by the Department of SPM and the University at Buffalo for September 2007 degree conferral. Congratulations to our graduates!

M.S. Epidemiology

Jane Rotterman, "*The Association Between Body Mass Index and Acute Myeloid Leukemia in an Adult Population*." Committee members include Drs. Kirsten

Moysich (major), Susan McCann and Arthur Michalek. Jane is currently a research assistant at the Research Institute on Addictions.

Michael Yeh, M.S., "*Dietary Factors and Endometrial Cancer.*" Committee members include Drs. Susan McCann, Kirsten Moysich, and Jo Freudenheim. Michael is currently a third year medical student at the University at Buffalo.

Ph.D. Epidemiology and Community Health

Qiang Li, M.S., "*The Effects of Cigarette Price and Tax on Smokers and Government Revenues.*" Committee members include Drs. Andrew Hyland (major), Gary Giovino and K. Michael Cummings. Qiang has accepted a position as post graduate research scientist at the University of Waterloo.

Edith Williams, M.S., "*Inflammatory Biomarkers and Subclinical Atherosclerosis in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: The Breakfast with a Buddy Biomarkers of Lupus Study.*" Committee members include Drs. Carlos Crespo (major), Joan Dorn and Richard Donahue. Edith has accepted a position as research assistant professor at the University of South Carolina.

Welcome New Students

The Department of SPM welcomes the following students for Fall 2007:

Ph.D. Epidemiology

Daniela Geba, M.D., University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Romania. Daniela is a graduate assistant in the Department of SPM.

Mahrin Rahman, B.A. anthropology and evolutionary biology; and M.P.H., Case Western Reserve University. Mahrin is a graduate assistant in the Department of SPM.

M.S. Epidemiology

Stefanie Bolas, B.S. veterinary technology and biology, Medaille College. Stefanie is a graduate assistant in the Department of SPM.

Heather Campobello, B.A. psychology, University at Buffalo. Heather is a research assistant in the Department of Cancer Prevention and Control at RPCI.

Sonja Pavlesen, M.D., University of Zagreb, Republic of Croatia. Sonja is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of SPM.

Thomas Sheehan, B.A. English, Canisius College; J.D. University at Buffalo. Thomas is an associate at Phillips Lytle, L.L.P.

Stephanie Wasch, B.S. environmental science, Canisius College. Stephanie is a graduate assistant in the Department of SPM.

MPH (Environmental Health)

Melissa Dolan, B.S. math and statistics, and M.S., technical systems management, SUNY/Stony Brook.

MPH (Epidemiology)

Michael Amato, B.S. pharmaceutical sciences, University at Buffalo.

Katharine Dobson, B.S. biology, Canisius College.

Rimal Gami, M.B.B.S., Bharati Vidyapeeth University.

Hala Ibrahim, M.B.B.Ch., University of Tanta, Egypt.

Leah Lasher, B.S. biology, Roberts Wesleyan College.

Laura Majeski, B.S. medical technology, University at Buffalo.

Chun Yee Poh, B.A. biotechnology, University at Buffalo. Chun Yee is a graduate assistant in the Office of International Education.

Marina Skrombolas, B.A. economics, University of Rochester.

Nicoleta Voian, M.D., Universitatea de Medicina si Farmacie, Romania. Nicoleta is a resident in the General Preventive Medicine Residency Program in the Department of SPM.

MPH (Health Services Administration)

Michele Brooks, B.A. anthropology, Kirkland College.

Jennifer Mace, B.S. athletic training, Canisius College.

Ariana Martinez, B.A. Spanish, University at Buffalo.

David Nichols, M.D., Georgetown University School of Medicine. David is an orthopedic surgeon in private practice.

Tara Short, B.A. English and political science, Indiana University-Bloomington. Tara is currently a J.D. student at the University at Buffalo.

Elena Steigman, B.S. urban public health/community health education, Hunter College/City University of New York. Elena is currently a J.D. student at the University at Buffalo.

SPM 553 Fundamentals of Grant Development

After a hiatus of several years, the Department will once again offer SPM 553 Fundamentals of Grant Development.

Instructor: Richard Donahue, Ph.D.

Mondays 1:00-3:40 p.m.

The course is designed for advanced students who are committed to obtaining extramural support to begin or continue their research interests. The major emphasis will be on learning skills to obtain extramural support through the various grant mechanisms. The course will cover the use of electronic databases to facilitate grant announcements, as well as planning and writing grants in today's competitive environment. Strong methodological and statistical skills are required. A seminar format will be utilized with students critiquing and evaluating the work of their fellow classmates. A final grant application will be the major output.

Prerequisites: SPM 501, SPM 502, SPM 506