

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 2009

Marcia Wopperer, editor

The Director's Corner

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) Accreditation Site Visit was held May 4-6. I would like to thank all of the graduate students who agreed to participate in the site visit. The School expects to receive a formal site visit report at the end of June. At that time we will have an opportunity to respond to the site visitors' comments before a final report is reviewed by the CEPH Board in October 2009. Notification of our accreditation status should arrive approximately 30 days after the review.


Commencement for the School of Public Health and Health Professions was held on May 9 at the Center for the Arts. Seventeen SPM students were included in the roster for degree conferrals: six Ph.D., four M.S. and seven M.P.H. Congratulations to our graduates and best wishes on their future endeavors!


We have begun planning for the upcoming American Public Health Association meeting entitled "*Water and Public Health*". The meeting will be held in Philadelphia, November 7-11. We will soon be asking for graduate student help to assist in the School's recruitment activities at APHA.


We would like to welcome Barbara Krajewski to the Department as our new biological specimen repository technician. Barbara brings with her a wealth of training and experience. Before joining SPM she held the position as environmental scientist at Ecology and Environment in WNY. Barbara received a B.A. in Biology/ Environmental Studies, and a B.A. in Economics from the University at Buffalo. She is also certified in OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations. Welcome to SPM!


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


Honors and Awards


 **Michelle Brooks, Katharine Dobson, Anna Falicov, Brian King and Ariana Martinez** have been elected to *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* for 2009.

 **Jo Freudenheim**, Ph.D. received the 2009 *Distinguished Postdoc Mentor Award (DMA)*. The award recognizes UB faculty who excel in mentoring postdoctoral students.

 **Pavani Ram**, M.D., was awarded the 2009 *Dean's Award for Community Service* in recognition for her achievements in providing professionally relevant community service to further the School's mission to improve the health of populations, communities or individuals.

 **Mark Travers**, Ph.D. received the 2009 *Saxon Graham Award* for academic excellence in epidemiology.

 **Jean Wactawski-Wende**, Ph.D., received the 2009 *UB Exceptional Scholar: Sustained Achievement Award* for her outstanding research accomplishments over several years.

 **Brent Williams**, M.S., received the 2009 *Saxon Graham Award for Graduate Research in Epidemiology*. The award provides funds to support research activities undertaken toward the completion of a doctoral dissertation.

Society for Epidemiologic Research

The 42 Annual Meeting of the Society for Epidemiologic Research entitled “*Epidemiologists as Vectors for Transmitting Health*” will be held June 23-26 in Anaheim, CA. The following posters will be presented by SPM faculty/students:

Christopher Bole, M.A., “*Coffee and Tea Consumption and Risk of Head and Neck Cancers*”

Jing Nie, Ph.D., “*Birth Weight and Breast-Feeding in Relation to Adult Serum Antioxidant Vitamins, Oxidative Stress Markers, Cholesterol, Triglycerides and Glucose*”

John Violanti, Ph.D., “*A Prospective Study of Shift Work and Depression in Police Officers*”

Faculty/Student Presentations

Ted Brasky, M.S., presented a poster entitled “*Recent Non-steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) and Lifetime Aspirin in Association with Breast Cancer Risk, The Western New York Exposures and Breast Cancer (WEB) Study*” at the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting held in Denver, CO on April 21.

Joan Dorn, Ph.D., presented a paper entitled “*Recreational Physical Activity and Recurrent Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Events in Myocardial Infarction Survivors: The Western New York Health Study (1996-2004)*” at the American Health Association (AHA) Joint Conference - 49th Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Preventive Annual Conference and Nutrition, Physical Activity and Metabolism Conference held March 10-14 in Palm Harbor, FL. Dr. Dorn also presented a poster entitled “*Depressive Symptoms Do Not Reduce the Benefits of Physical Activity on Recurrent Cardiovascular Disease Events*” at the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) 56th Annual Meeting held May 27-30 in Seattle, WA.

Gabriele Foley, J.D., presented a poster entitled “*Impact of Worksite Health Promotion on Corporate Environmental Health, Culture and Individual Employee Health Risks*” at the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) 56th Annual Meeting held May 27-30 in Seattle, WA.

Brian King, M.P.H., presented a poster entitled “*Quantitative Assessment of Secondhand Smoke Transfer in Multi-Unit Dwellings*” at the 2009 Joint Conference of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) and SRNT-Europe held in Dublin, Ireland, April 27-30. Brian will also present three posters at the 2009 National

Conference on Tobacco or Health to be held in Phoenix, AZ, June 10-12: “*Preferences and Practices Regarding Smoke-Free Policy Implementation Among Owners and Managers of Multi-Unit Housing*,” “*Long-Term Compliance with New York State’s Clean Indoor Air Act Among Bars, Restaurants, and Bowling Facilities in Erie and Niagara Counties*” and “*Long-Term Assessment of Western New York Tobacco Retailer Marketing Practices*.”

Amy Millen, Ph.D., gave an invited talk entitled “*Incident Invasive Breast Cancer, Geographic Location of Residence, and Reported Average Time Spent Outside: The Women’s Health Initiative Observational Study*” at the Health Effects Laboratory Division, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, April 20 in Morgantown, VA. Dr. Millen also presented a poster at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Annual Meeting entitled “*Relationships Between Vitamin D Status and Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) in the Carotenoids and Age-Related Eye Disease Study, an Ancillary Study of the Women’s Health Initiative Observational Study (WHIOS)*.” The meeting was held May 3-6 in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Heather Ochs-Balcom, Ph.D. presented a poster entitled “*Vitamin D Receptor Gene Variation is Associated with Pulmonary Function in Healthy Adult Women*” at the American Thoracic Society Annual Meeting, held May 17 in San Diego, CA.

Michelle Roberts, M.A., presented a poster entitled “*DNA Repair Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms and Risk of Breast Cancer (WEB Study)*” at the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting in Denver, CO on April 21.

Faculty/Student Research

Joan Dorn, Ph.D., principal investigator for the New York State Department of Health’s *New York State Wellness Grant*, has received additional funds to extend the WNY Wellness Works Initiative. This is a community-based worksite research project aimed at determining the health and fiscal benefits of worksite health promotion programs throughout WNY.

Sarah Morrow, M.D., is co-principal investigator for a \$250,000 clinical trial entitled “*Effects of Lisdexamfetamine on Bradyphrenia in Multiple Sclerosis*” sponsored by Shire Development, Inc. This is a double blind placebo controlled pilot study to examine the efficacy of lisdexamfetamine on cognitive measures in MS patients, specifically measures of attention and processing speed.

Kirsten Moysich, Ph.D., was awarded a five year, \$4,389,205 grant from the National Cancer Institute entitled “*Regulatory T Cell Function in Ovarian Cancer*.” The goal of the study is to determine the role of regulatory

T cell function in the etiology and prognosis of ovarian cancer.

Preventive Medicine Residency Program

Drs. **Sohaib Aleem** and **Roberto Diaz Del Carpio** will begin their PGY III in the Combined Internal Medicine/Preventive Medicine Residency Program on July 1. They entered the Combined Program in Internal Medicine in 2007. Dr. Aleem received his M.B.B.S. from Aga Khan University in 2003. Dr. Diaz Del Carpio received his M.D. from the Universidad Catolica de Santa Maria in 2002.

Deirdre Wheat, M.B.Ch. has been named chief resident for 2009-2010.

Nicoleta Voian, M.D., M.P.H. will complete her Preventive Medicine residency on June 24. She will begin a medical genetic residency at the Oregon Health and Science University on July 1.

News and Notes

Holger Schunemann, M.D., Ph.D. was appointed chair, Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, McMaster University Health Sciences Centre, effective February 1, 2009.

Alumni News

Harvey Arbesman, M.D., M.S. ('95) received a \$50,000 award from Prize4Life for developing a promising biomarker that can be used to assess disease progression of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). By adapting a technology commonly used in the cosmetic industry to non-invasively measure skin elasticity, Dr. Arbesman and his colleagues were able to show that changes in skin elasticity correlated with disease progression in patients with ALS. The money will be used to continue his research on the biomarker. Prize4Life is a nonprofit organization dedicated to finding breakthroughs in effective treatments for ALS.

Margaret Eberl, M.D., M.P.H. ('05) is a new member of the physician team at Lifetime Health Medical Group.

Geroncio Fajardo, M.D., M.S. ('04) has accepted a position as epidemiologist at the Epidemiology, Surveillance and Response Division of Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response, Centers for Disease Control (CDC). He began his new position on June 9.

Andrew Freedman, Ph.D. ('95), M.S. ('92) has been named chief of the Clinical and Translational Epidemiology Branch (CTEB) at the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Epidemiology and Genetics Research Program. The branch supports, directs, and stimulated research on clinical, environmental, and genomic factors that influence cancer progression, recurrent, new primary cancers, and mortality.

Sylvia Quick, Ph.D. ('08) was featured in the Spring 2009 issue of Epidemiology and Genetics Research Program (EGRP) Research Highlights for her research entitled "*HRT Use and Oxidative Stress May Affect Post-menopausal Breast Cancer Risk.*"

Lisa Santora, M.D., M.P.H. ('02) is chief medical officer for the Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) in Redondo Beach, CA.

Shauna Lawless Zorich, M.D., M.P.H. ('08) is the medical director at Sister's Care Center at St. Adalbert's Response to Love Center in Buffalo.

June 2009 Graduates

The following students successfully completed all degree requirements established by the Department of SPM and the University at Buffalo for June 2009 degree conferral. Congratulations to our graduates!

M.S. Epidemiology

Stefanie Bolas, "*Assessing the Current Hand Hygiene Knowledge and Attitudes in Buffalo Public School Teachers and the Hand Hygiene Practices of Teachers and Students to Guide Future Hand Hygiene Promotion Programs.*" Committee members include: Drs. Pavani Ram (major), William Scheider, and Carl Li. Stefanie has been accepted to St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine.

Demetrius Moutsiakis, M.D., M.P.H., "*Re-assessing the Prevalence of Physical Disability Among Graduating U.S. Medical Students.*" Committee members include: Drs. Michael Noe (major), Carl Li and Thomas Polisoto.

M.P.H. (Epidemiology)

Nicoleta Voian, M.D., "*Pilot Study to Assess the Association Between Second Hand Smoke and Selected Physiologic Measures.*" Committee members include: Drs. Martin Mahoney (major) and Richard O'Connor. Dr. Voian will begin her medical genetic residency at the Oregon Health and Science University on July 1.

M.P.H. Health Services

Judith Feld, M.D., *“Behavioral Health Care Integration: Improving Access to Care.”* Committee members include Drs. Dennis Bertram (major) and Carl Li.

Lise Hernandez, *“BMT Patient/Caregiver Log – Development and Assessment of Evaluation Methods and Documents for Future Research. Obtaining Feedback for Review and Revision of Materials.”* Committee members include: Drs. Dennis Bertram (major) and Frank Schimpfhauser. Lise is clinical administrator of the Blood and Marrow Transplant Program at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Shelly Tsai, J.D., *“Public Health vs. Junk Food Incorporated: Challenging the Junk Food Industry’s Predatory Marketing Practices Toward Children.”* Committee members include: Dr. Dennis Bertram (major) and Ruqaiyah Yearby.