

# 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 2010

Marcia Wopperer, editor


### *The Director's Corner*


The School of Public Health and Health Professions has created a new Division of Environmental Health Sciences in the Department of SPM. The division will support environmental health research and teaching in the MPH Environmental Health concentration. **James Olson**, Ph.D. has been appointed director. Dr. Olson has held an appointment in SPM since 1994 and is currently leading research studies on exposure to pesticides, the potential for adverse effects associated with exposures in certain populations, and genetic susceptibility to the pesticides. He will continue to hold his appointment as professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, as well as his appointment in SPM. **Matthew Bonner**, Ph.D., will continue to serve as director of the Environmental Health concentration.


**Joan Dorn**, Ph.D., has been appointed chair of the Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences in the SPHHP effective January 2010. Dr. Dorn had served as interim chair since 2008. She entered the Department of SPM in 1989 as a doctoral student and received her Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Community Health in 1993. She was appointed to a faculty position in SPM in 1996 focusing her research interest on cardiovascular disease epidemiology. We wish Dr. Dorn all the best in her new position. Congratulations!


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

### *Honors and Awards*

 **Raj Chennameneni**, M.B.B.S., M.P.H., received a Perry Poster Award for his poster entitled "Vitamin D Receptor Gene Variants are Associated with Adiposity Phenotypes." The award was presented at the SPHHP 21<sup>st</sup> Annual J. Warren Perry Lecture held on November 13.

 **Katherine Dobson**, M.P.H., was selected as one of two 2009 Student Poster Award winners from the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD) Section of the American Public Health Association. Her poster entitled "*Impact of Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law on Tourism*" was presented at the annual meeting held in Philadelphia, PA, November 7-11.

 **Brian King**, M.P.H., was awarded a position as Epidemiology Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer at the CDC. He will enter the 2010 EIS class on July 1. EIS is the elite core in the field of epidemiology.

 **John Violanti**, Ph.D., received a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health for Scientific Excellence Award for his publication "*Atypical Work Hours and Metabolic Syndrome Among Police Officers.*" NIOSH nominated nine outstanding articles which represent key contributions to the innovative science on which the health and safety strategies of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are built. All studies nominated were published in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

### *Faculty/Student Presentations*

**Christopher Co**, M.D., presented a poster entitled "*Assessment of Patient Sign-Outs Conducted by University at Buffalo Internal Medicine Residents*" at the American College of Preventive Medicine Annual Conference held February 17-20 in Washington, DC.

**K. Michael Cummings**, Ph.D., presented a paper entitled "*Research Priorities Relevant to FDA Legislation to Regulate Tobacco Products*" at the 137<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association's Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD) Section held November 7-11 in Philadelphia, PA.

**Jo Freudenheim**, Ph.D., presented a paper entitled "Association of Body Mass Index (BMI) with DNA Methylation in Postmenopausal Breast Cancer: The Western New York Exposures and Breast Cancer (WEB) Study" at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Conference on Cancer Epigenetics held in San Juan, PR, January 20-23.

**Janice Hastrup**, Ph.D., presented two posters at the 137<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association: "Brief Educational Intervention to Decrease Misinformation About Tobacco and Nicotine" and "Brief Educational Intervention to Increase Knowledge of Family Health History and Prevention." The meeting was held in Philadelphia, PA, November 7-11.

**Cassandra Hoebbel**, Ed.M., will present a poster entitled "An Examination of the Associations Between Worksite Health Structure and Worksite Health Culture" at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Art and Science of Health Promotion Conference held in Hilton Head, SC, on March 15-19.

**Brian King**, M.P.H., presented a poster entitled "Evaluation of an Intervention to Enhance Interest in Smoke-Free Policies Among Multi-Unit Housing Operators" at the 2010 Conference of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) held in Baltimore, MD, February 24-27.

**Anushree Sharma** presented a poster entitled "Internet Based Investigation of E-Cigarette Abuse Potential" at the 2010 Conference of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) held in Baltimore, MD on February 24-27.

**Deirdre Wheat**, M.B.B.Ch., presented a poster at the American College of Preventive Medicine Annual Conference held in Washington, DC, February 17-20. The title of her poster was "Intention to Receive HPV Vaccine Among Male College Students."

## *News and Notes*

**Arthur Goshin**, M.D., M.P.H., has been appointed to the World Health Organization's Tropical Diseases Research Steering Committee on Access and Delivery Initiatives.

**Kirsten Moysich**, Ph.D., has been promoted to professor in the Department of Cancer Prevention and Prevention, RPCI; and Department of SPM effective 2009.

## *Alumni News*

**Germaine Buck**, Ph.D., ('87) has accepted the position of permanent director of the Division of Epidemiology, Statistics and Prevention Research at NICHD effective

November 2009. Dr. Buck had been serving as chief and senior investigator of the Epidemiology Branch, and acting director of the Division of Epidemiology since 2000.

**Parveen Nedra Joseph**, Ph.D., ('08) is currently serving a two-month CDC field assignment at the Department of Public Health and Social Services in Guam.

## *February 2010 Graduates*

The following students successfully completed all degree requirements established by the Department of SPM and the University at Buffalo for February 2010 degree conferral. Congratulations to our graduates!

### M.S. Epidemiology

**Michael Ray**, "Evaluation of Manual and Automated Techniques in Segmentation of Digitized Prostate Tissue Microarray Cores." Committee members include Drs. James Marshall (major), James Mohler and Irwin Gelman. Michael is a research technologist at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

### M.P.H. (Epidemiology)

**Michael Amato**, "Prevalence of Legionella Species in Erie County Private Residential Homes – Grant Proposal." Committee members include Drs. Carl Li (major) and Dennis Bertram. Michael is an assistant epidemiologist at the Erie County Department of Health.

**Harvey Berman**, Ph.D., "The Vioxx Chronicles." Committee members include Dr. William Scheider (major) and Jess Alderman, J.D. Harvey is an associate professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University at Buffalo.

**Katherine Dobson**, "Western New Yorkers' Utilization of the HPV Vaccine." Committee members include Drs. Andrew Hyland (major) and Carl Li. Katie is continuing her studies in the Ph.D. Program in Epidemiology in the Department of SPM.

**Leah Lasher**, "Emergency Preparedness for Seasonal and Migrant Workers." Committee members include Dr. Carl Li (major) and Dennis Bertram. Leah is an employment specialist at Heritage Centers in Buffalo.

**Sanket Nagarkar**, B.D.S., "Awareness in Dentistry." Committee members include Drs. Jean Wactawski-Wende (major) and Dennis Bertram. Sanket is a resident in dental public health at the NYSDOH Bureau of Dental Health.

M.P.H. (Environmental Health)

**Krista Trivieri**, *“Serum Organochlorine Pesticide Exposure in Anniston, Alabama.”* Committee members include Drs. Matthew Bonner (major) and Carole Rudra.

M.P.H. (Health Services)

**Michelle Brooks**, *“The Patient-Centered Medical Home and Access to Care in Low Income Urban Populations.”* Michelle has accepted a position as program director in the Department of Family Medicine, University at Buffalo.

**Nancy Grier**, *“Improving Oral Medication Management: From Paper to Patient.”* Committee members include Drs. Donald Rowe (major) and Dennis Bertram.

**Ariana Martinez**, *“Health Information Technology: A Quality Initiative to Improve Patient Care.”* Committee members include Drs. Carl Li (major) and Laurene Tumiel-Berhalter. Ariana has accepted a position as program coordinator, Department of Community Health, Kaleida Health.