

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 2010

Marcia Wopperer, editor


The Director's Corner


The School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP) Commencement was held on May 8 at the Center for the Arts. Michael Cropp, M.D., president and chief executive officer of Independent Health served as the commencement speaker. Twenty-seven students from SPM were included in the roster for degree conferrals: two Ph.D., five M.S. and 20 M.P.H. Congratulations to all our graduates and best wishes on their future endeavors!


The School will sponsor a graduate student recruitment booth at the annual American Public Health Association (APHA) meeting. This year's meeting will be held in Denver, CO, November 6-10. Early in the Fall semester, we will send out a request asking for student volunteers to help with the recruitment effort. Please join us if you can.


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


Honors and Awards


 **Christopher Co, Matthew Dabski, Daniela Geba, Andrea Licht, Anne Weaver and Brent Williams** were selected for *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges for 2009-2010*.

 **Christopher Co, M.D.**, received the UB Graduate Medical Education Quality Improvement Award presented at the 13th Annual GME Scholarly Exchange Day held on April 24 at the Adam's Mark Hotel.

 **Lisa Rafalson, Ph.D.**, received the Faculty of the Year Award from D'Youville College, Health Services Administration.

 **Deirdre Wheat, M.B.B.Ch.**, received the Outstanding Resident Scientific Poster Award for her poster entitled "*Intention to Receive HPV Vaccine Among Male College Students*" presented at the American College of Physicians Preventive Medicine 2010. The conference was held February 17-20 in Crystal City, VA.

 She was also awarded First Place in the category of Patient Safety and Outcomes Measurement for her poster "*An Assessment of Patient Sign-outs Conducted by University at Buffalo Internal Medicine Residents*" presented at the New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians meeting held in NYC on April 10.

 Deirdre also received the Philip Goldstein Memorial Award from the University at Buffalo Department of Medicine for her dedication to medical education and unique ability to motivate others to be better learners, physicians and colleagues. The award was presented at the Department of Internal Medicine Graduation Dinner on June 12.

Society for Epidemiologic Research

"*Epidemiology in an Interconnected World*" will be the theme for the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER). The meeting will be held June 23-26 in Seattle, WA. Poster presentations from SPM will include: **Matthew Bonner, Ph.D.**, "*Consumption of Lake Ontario Sport Fish and the Incidence of Lung Cancer;*" and **Raj Chennamaneni, M.P.H.**, "*Vitamin D Receptor Gene Variants are Associated with Adiposity Phenotypes.*"

American Public Health Association

Mark your calendars! The 138th Annual Meeting and Exposition of the American Public Health Association will be held November 6-10 in Denver, CO. The theme for this year's meeting will be "*Social Justice: A Public Health Imperative.*" Information can be found online at www.apha.org. Early bird discounted rates are available until August 27. The registration deadline is October 1.

Faculty/Student Research

Christine Ambrosone, Ph.D., is co-principal investigator for a \$2,673,664 four-year grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) entitled "*DNA Methylation: A Mechanism for Aggressive Breast Cancer in African-American Women?*" The study will compare genome wide methylation patterns in tumors from black and white women with breast cancer, and evaluate the top 'hits' in tumors from 500 black women and 500 white women participating in the WCHS, a case control study of breast cancer. The goal is to determine relationships between methylation patterns, predictive factors, and breast cancer subtypes in black and white women. **Jo Freudenheim** is a co-investigator on the grant.

Amy Millen, Ph.D., is principal investigator for a two-year \$275,000 NIH National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIH/NIDCR) grant entitled "*Vitamin D Status and Periodontal Disease.*" Using data from the Osteoporosis and Periodontal Disease Study, an ancillary study of the Women's Health Initiative observational cohort, the investigators propose to determine whether baseline (1997-2000) vitamin D status, assessed with plasma 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D) concentrations, is associated with prevalent periodontal disease assessed at baseline and five-year progression (2002-2005) of disease. **Jean Wactawski-Wende**, Ph.D., is co-investigator on the grant.

Jean Wactawski-Wende, Ph.D., was awarded a two-year \$987,000 grant from the NIH National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIH/NIDCR) entitled "*Saliva and Serum Inflammatory Biomarkers in Periodontitis: A Study in Older Women.*" The study will assess the relationship between serum and salivary biomarkers and determine how they predict incidence and progression of periodontal disease and osteoporosis.

Faculty/Student Presentations

Christopher Co, M.D., presented a poster "*Assessment of Patient Sign-Outs Conducted by Internal Medicine Residents at the University at Buffalo*" at the 13th Annual GME Scholarly Exchange Day held on April 24 at the Adam's Mark Hotel.

Heather Ochs-Balcom, Ph.D., gave a plenary talk entitled "*Witnessing to Save Lives: In the Community and in the Research Lab;*" and also a poster presentation, "*Establishing a Community Partnership to Optimize Recruitment of African-American Pedigrees for Genetic Research,*" at the Cancer Culture and Literacy Conference held May 20-22 in Clearwater Beach, FL. The session presented a 19-year perspective of the evolution and sustainability of a national community-based participatory research (CBPR) program.

James Olson, Ph.D., presented a paper entitled "*Strain and Dose-Related Effects of Subchronic Chlorpyrifos (CPF) Exposure on Biomarkers of Exposure and Oxidative Stress in Rats*" at the Society of Toxicology Conference held March 7-11 in Salt Lake City, UT.

Lisa Rafalson, Ph.D., will present an abstract entitled "*New Screening Recommendations for Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in Relation to Cardiovascular Risk Factors: The Western New York Health Study*" at the American Diabetes Association 70th Scientific Session held in Orlando, FL, June 25-29. Dr. Rafalson will also present an abstract, "*BMI and Dental Decay May be Linked,*" at The Endocrine Society Annual Meeting to be held in San Diego, CA, June 19-22.

Carole Rudra, Ph.D., will present a poster entitled "*Ambient Carbon Monoxide and Fine Particulates in Relation to Preterm Delivery and Preeclampsia in Western Washington State*" at the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research (SPER). The meeting will be held in Seattle, WA, June 22-23.

Deirdre Wheat, M.B.B.Ch., presented a poster "*HPV Vaccine Among Male College Students*" at the 13th Annual GME Scholarly Exchange Day held on April 24 at the Adam's Mark Hotel.

Preventive Medicine Residency Program

Dhanashri Kohok, M.B.B.S., will begin her PGY III in the Combined Internal Medicine/Preventive Medicine Residency Program on July 1. She received her M.B.B.S. from BJ Medical College, Pune, India in 2004, and began her residency in the Internal Medicine Program at UB in 2008.

Drs. **Christopher Co** and **Deirdre Wheat** will complete their Internal Medicine/Preventive Medicine Residency Program on June 30. Dr. Co will join Home Physicians, PC, in Chicago as a staff physician. Dr. Wheat will be employed in Buffalo as a primary care and preventive medicine physician.

News and Notes

Tonya Carr was selected for the position of Western Regional Immunization Field Representative at the New York State Department of Health.

Kirsten Moysich, Ph.D., has been appointed chair of the academic department, Department of Cancer Pathology and Prevention at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Alumni News

Enrique Schisterman, Ph.D., ('99) has been appointed chief of the Epidemiology Branch, Division of Epidemiology, Statistics and Prevention Research, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), effective July 5.

Stacey Sood, M.P.H., ('06) received her D.V.M. degree from Tuskegee University. She plans to establish a clinic practice in WNY.

Stephen Trynosky, J.D., M.P.H., ('06) has been promoted to legislative program specialist at the Veterans Health Administration.

June 2010 Graduates

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

Ph.D. Epidemiology

Brian King, M.P.H., "*A Multiple-Stakeholder Evaluation of the Nature and Extent of Secondhand Smoke in Multi-Unit Housing.*" Committee members: Drs. Andrew Hyland (major), K. Michael Cummings and Martin Mahoney. Brian was awarded an EIS officer position at the CDC. His training will begin on July 1.

M.S. Epidemiology

Melissa Kluczynski, "*The Association Between Physical Activity and Serum 25(OH)D Status Among Postmenopausal Women.*" Committee members: Drs. Amy Millen (major), Jean Wactawski-Wende, Michael LaMonte and Christopher Andrews. Melissa has accepted a position as research assistant in the Division of Behavioral Medicine at the University at Buffalo.

Karen Sereday, "*Lifetime Exposure to Regular Physical Activity and Risk of Breast Cancer: The Western New York Exposures and Breast Cancer (WEB) Study.*" Committee members: Drs. Jo Freudenheim (major), Joan Dorn and Michael LaMonte.

Miriam Silverberg, M.D., "*Retrospective Review of Allopurinol Dose and Renal Function in Gout Patients With and Without Allopurinol Reactions.*" Committee members: Drs. Carl Li (major), Matthew Bonner, Alan Lesse and Alan Baer.

M.P.H. (Epidemiology)

Christopher Co, M.D., "*Beliefs and Attitudes Toward Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking: A Systematic Review.*" Committee members: Drs. Michael Noe (major), Carl Li and Elie Akl. Dr. Co will join Home Physicians, PC in Chicago as a staff physician.

Anna Falicov, J.D., "*Grant Proposal for Outreach Program Targeting Indigenous Farm Workers in New York State.*" Committee members: Drs. William Scheider (major) and Carl Li. Anna is currently an associate lawyer at Creighton, Pearce, Johnsen and Giroux in Buffalo.

David Nichols, M.D., "*Exploratory Case-Control Study: Determination of Predictive Factors for Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus Nasal Colonization in a Population of Community Hospital Patients.*" Committee members: Drs. Pavani Ram (major) and Alan Lesse.

Monica Thakur, M.B.B.S., "*Grant Proposal to Study the Cumulative Effect of High Fat High Carbohydrate Meal on Oxidative Load, Inflammatory Mediators and Insulin Resistance in Normal and Obese Subjects.*" Committee members: Drs. Carl Li (major) and Paresh Dandona.

Deirdre Wheat, M.B.B.Ch., "*Intention to Receive HPV Vaccine Among Male College Students.*" Committee members: Drs. Martin Mahoney (major) and Carl Li. Dr. Wheat will practice primary care and preventive medicine in Buffalo.

M.P.H. (Environmental Health)

Amanda Rundell, "*Sustainable Food Services in Institutions of Higher Education.*" Committee members: Drs. William Scheider (major) and Gary Giovino.

Marina Skrombolas, "*Environmental Exposures that Influence Oral Bacteria in Postmenopausal Women.*" Committee members: Drs. Jean Wactawski-Wende (major) and William Scheider.

M.P.H. (Health Services)

Matthew Dabski, "*Water Quality Affecting the Tonawanda Band of Seneca Indians.*" Committee members: Drs. Donald Rowe (major) and Carl Li.

Jennifer Mace, "*Accreditation Review of the Erie County Medical Examiner's Office.*" Committee members: Drs. Carl Li (major) and Frank Schimpfhauser.

Anushree Sharma, *"Internet Based Investigations of E-Cigarette Abuse Potential."* Committee members: Drs. Richard O'Connor (major) and Carl Li.

New Course for Fall 2010

SPM 522 Special Topics in Infectious Disease Epidemiology

(2 credits)

Reg. No. 140532

Thursdays 2:00-3:40

Instructor: Pavani Ram, M.D.

Special Topics in Infectious Disease Epidemiology will be a seminar-style course that will delve into infectious disease epidemiology concepts and application in greater detail than covered in the SPM 513 Epidemiology of Infectious Disease course. The course will consist of student-led presentations and discussions, reading of the peer-reviewed literature, and completion of infectious disease outbreak investigation case studies.

Prerequisites: SPM 501 and SPM 513 and permission of instructor is required.

SPM 649 Advanced Environmental Health Sciences

(3 credits)

Reg. No. 063027

Wednesdays 1:00-3:40

Instructor: Lina Mu, Ph.D.

This is an advanced course designed to provide students with the latest knowledge and an in-depth discussion of how the environment interacts with human biological systems and potentiates various health effects over the life cycle. The course includes a detailed examination of environmental hazards, exposure assessment, human susceptibility, biological response pathways, application of biomarkers in environmental health studies and the disease burden of environmental exposure. The course focuses on three major environmental topics: air pollution, water pollution and food safety.

Prerequisites: SPM 501 and SPM 549