

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>



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Marcia Wopperer, editor


The Director's Corner


We would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and continuing students and wish them success in their studies. Our incoming class of 17 includes four Ph.D., two M.S., and 11 M.P.H. students (seven epidemiology, one environmental health and three health services). Enrollment for all three graduate programs for the Fall 2010 semester totals 62 students.


The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) conducted a site visit of our Preventive Medicine Residency Program on September 21. Site visits for Preventive Medicine residency programs range from one to five years. The Program's last site visit was held in 2005. We expect to receive a formal site visit report from ACGME in early 2011.

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

Honors and Awards

 **Carole Rudra**, Ph.D., received the First Place Poster Award for her poster entitled "*Time-Activity Based Estimates of Fine Particulate Exposure Using Smartphones*" at the American College of Epidemiology 2010 Annual Meeting held in San Francisco, September 11-14.

 **Anne Weaver**, M.S., received a Scholar-in-Training Travel Award to present her poster entitled "*Usual Intakes of Total and Specific Isoflavones in Association with Breast Tumor Characteristics*" at the Ninth Annual American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) International Conference, Frontiers in Cancer Prevention Research. The conference will be held in Philadelphia, November 7-10.

 Anne's poster entitled "*Factors Associated with Appropriate Diarrhea Case Management in Hospitalized Children Under Five in Nyanza*

Province, Kenya" received Best Abstract in the Population-Based Science Category at the 22nd J. Warren Perry Lecture held October 15 at Harriman Hall.

Faculty/Student Research

Jo Freudenheim, Ph.D., is co-investigator for a four year National Cancer Institute (NCI) subcontract entitled "*DNA Methylation: A Mechanism for Aggressive Breast Cancer in African-American Women.*" While African American women have lower rates of breast cancer, their survival from breast cancer is poorer than for European American women. This study will examine differences in DNA methylation of breast tumors for these two groups to better understand the mechanism of this difference in tumor aggressiveness. **Christine Ambrosone**, Ph.D., is principal investigator on the grant. Dr. Freudenheim was also awarded a two year subcontract entitled "*Risk Factors for miRNA Expression and Differentiation in Normal Breast Tissue from NCI.*" MicroRNAs (miRNA) are small non-coding RNA molecules recently recognized to regulate the activity of most miRNAs and so play a vital role in a variety of both physiological and pathological processes, including carcinogenesis. Using normal breast tissue from women undergoing reduction mammoplasty, the study will examine determinants of miRNA expression and the association of miRNA expression with proliferation and differentiation in the tissue.

Michelle Roberts, M.A., received an award from the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program which will support her predoctoral research. The grant, entitled "*Expression of Protein Involved in Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition as Predictors of Metastasis and Survival in Breast Cancer Patients,*" will evaluate protein expression and promoter methylation of genes involved in epithelial-mesenchymal transition and their relationship with tumor characteristics, lymph node metastasis, recurrence, and survival in breast cancer patients. **Christine Ambrosone**, Ph.D., is a co-investigator on the grant.

Carole Rudra, Ph.D., is principal investigator for a two-year \$301,813 National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIH/NIEHS) grant entitled “*Use of Cellphone-Based Time Activity Data for Air Pollutant Exposure Estimation.*” The study will use GPS-equipped smartphones to collect time-activity data used to refine land use regression- and kriging-based estimates of ambient air pollutant exposures.

Jean Wactawski-Wende, Ph.D., is principal investigator for the Northeast Region of the 2010-2015 Women’s Health Initiative (WHI) Extension. With the extension WHI will move from a 40 center structure to a four regional center structure. The University at Buffalo will serve as the regional lead for the award. This \$8,200,000 National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute study will extend the Women’s Health Initiative (WHI) adding additional scientific study of this valuable cohort of postmenopausal women, including understanding the role of genetics and other factors in both disease and health aging. The Northeast region includes University at Buffalo investigators as well as other institutions including Harvard/Brigham, Medstar Health Research Institute, Einstein, Pawtucket/Brown, University of Massachusetts Worcester, Stonybrook, George Washington University and New Jersey Medical Dental. Co-principal investigators from SPM include Drs. **Matthew Bonner**, **Michael Lamonte**, **Amy Millen** and **Heather Ochs-Balcom**. In addition, Drs. Christopher Andrews from Biostatistics and Lara Sucheston from Roswell Park Cancer Institute round out the Buffalo team. Plans are underway to write ancillary studies to secure additional extramural funding to further build on scientific discovery from this valuable dataset. The five-year study began October 1 and runs through September 30, 2015.

Faculty/Student Presentations

Sohaib Aleem, M.B.B.S., will present a poster entitled “*Survey Instruments Used in Clinical and Epidemiological Research on Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking: A Systematic Review*” at the 138th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association. The meeting will be held November 6-10 in Denver, CO.

J. Warren Perry Lecture

The School of Public Health and Health Professions 22nd Annual J. Warren Perry Lecture, “*Living Like We are Bullet Proof: Social Justice and Health in the United States,*” was held on October 15 at Harriman Hall. Poster presentations from SPM students include:

William Lainhart, M.S., “*Depression is Associated with Reduced Pulmonary Function in Healthy Adults*”

Yanli Li, B.Med., “*Primary Liver Cancer Incidence Trends in New York State, 1976-2006*”

Andrea Licht, B.S., “*Use of Price and Tax Avoidance Behaviors as Predictors of Cessation Measures Among Smokers with Varying Socio-Economic Statuses in the International Tobacco Control Policy Evaluation Project – 4 Country Survey*”

Anne Weaver, M.S., “*Factors Associated with Appropriate Diarrhea Case Management in Hospitalized Children Under Five in Nyanza Province, Kenya.*”

Saxon Graham Lecture

Mark your calendars! The 2011 Saxon Graham Lecture will be held on Friday, April 29, 2011. The annual lecture honors Dr. Saxon Graham, chair of the Department of SPM from 1981-1991. James Marshall, Ph.D., will be this year’s speaker. More information to follow.

SPM Journal Club

ATTENTION SPM students and faculty.....all are welcome to attend the newly formed SPM Journal Club. The club is an informal, student-led group which meets on Fridays every other week from 10:30-11:30 in 240 Farber Hall to discuss epidemiology research with students and faculty. Meetings are planned for the following dates: October 22, November 19 and December 3. Feel free to contact Michelle Roberts (mr68@buffalo.edu) for further information.

News and Notes

Roberto Diaz Del Carpio, M.D., has been elected chair of the University at Buffalo Resident’s Committee.

Lisa Rafalson, Ph.D., has accepted a position as assistant professor in the Department of Doctoral Programs at D’Youville College.

William Scheider, Ph.D., has been elected president of the board of directors for the Clean Air Coalition of Western New York.

Health Care USA, Understanding Its Organization and Delivery, co-authored by **Kristina Young**, M.S., and Harry Sultz, D.D.S., was released in its 7th edition by Jones & Bartlet Publishers.

Alumni News

Edith Williams, Ph.D. (’07), has been awarded the 2010 Pfizer Fellowship in Health Disparities. The fellowship, which carries a stipend of \$130,000 over two years, is designed to support the career development of talented junior researchers. Her study will focus on an intervention to reduce the psychosocial and biological indicators of stress in African-American lupus patients. Dr. Williams is

currently a research assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of South Carolina's Arnold School of Public Health.

June 2010 Graduates

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

Ph.D. Epidemiology

Sreenivasa Sarikonda, M.A., "*Association Between Self-Reported Quantity and Quality of Sleep with Recurrent Cardiovascular Events.*" Committee members include Drs. Richard Donahue (major), Joan Dorn and Randolph Carter.

Brent Williams, M.S., "*The Incremental Prognostic Value of Myocardial Perfusion Parameters as Measured by Positron Emission Tomography.*" Committee members include Drs. Joan Dorn (major), Michael LaMonte, Richard Donahue and Maurizio Trevisan. Brent has accepted a position as research investigator at Geisinger Health System in Danville, PA.

M.S. Epidemiology

Anne Weaver, B.S., "*Diarrhea Case Management in Hospitalized Children Under Five in Nyanza Province, Kenya.*" Committee members include Drs. Pavani Ram (major), Jo Freudenheim and Amy Millen. Anne is continuing her studies in the Ph.D. in Epidemiology Program in the Department of SPM.

New Students for Fall 2010

Ph.D. Epidemiology

Jiahe Jin, B.M. traditional Chinese medicine; and M.S. clinical medicine, Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine

Andrea Licht, B.S. health sciences, SUNY Cortland; M.S. (expected 2/2011), University at Buffalo.

Xiaodan Mai, B.S. preventive medicine, Southern Medical University, Guangdong Province

Anne Weaver, B.S. biology, SUNY Geneseo; M.S. epidemiology, University at Buffalo

M.S. Epidemiology

Rachel Rizzo, B.S. natural sciences, Daemen College

Diana Schubauer, B.A. biological sciences, University at Buffalo

M.P.H. (Epidemiology)

Richard Davies, B.S. biology, SUNY/Geneseo

Caila Hilbert, B.S. biological sciences, LeMoyne College

Ayesha Khan, B.S. health sciences, University of Waterloo

Dhanashri Kohok, M.B.B.S., BJ Medical College, Pune

Lavanya Krishnan, B.Sc. human biology, University of Toronto; M.S. exercise science, University at Buffalo

Elise Tjaden, B.S. biology, Saint John Fisher College

Marielle Wiede, B.S. exercise science, High Point University

M.P.H. (Environmental Health)

Joel Merriman, B.S. public health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

M.P.H. (Health Services)

Joel Beatty, M.D., and B.S. psychology, University at Buffalo

Vera Dovirak, B.A. English, St. Francis College

Sarah Moravan, B.S. exercise science, University at Buffalo