

# 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 2011

Marcia Wopperer, editor


### The Director's Corner


The School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP) commencement was held on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Center for the Arts. John Craig, Ph.D., Vice President for Education and Outreach from WNEP served as commencement speaker. Twenty-one students from the Department of SPM were included in the roster for degree conferral: three Ph.D., four M.S., and 14 M.P.H. Congratulations to our graduates and best wishes on their future endeavors!


We are pleased to announce that **Xuefeng Ren**, M.D., Ph.D., has joined the Department of SPM, Division of Environmental Health Sciences, as assistant professor effective November 1, 2010. His research interests include biomarkers of carcinogenesis, molecular and cellular biology, toxicology, and genetic and epigenetic mechanisms of environmental mutagens and carcinogens in relation to cancer and other health outcomes. Dr. Ren received his M.D. from the Batou Medical College in Inner Mongolia in 1995; his M.S. in public health from Fudan University in Shanghai in 2001; and his Ph.D. in toxicology from the University of Washington, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in 2007. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Gene and Environment Laboratory, Division of Environmental Health Sciences at the University of California, Berkeley in 2009; and was previously an associate molecular toxicology specialist at the University of California, Berkeley.


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


### Honors and Awards


 **Sohaib Aleem, Kelly Kamm, William Lainhart, Yanli Li and Thomas Sheehan** were elected to *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* for the 2010-2011 academic year.


 **Brian King**, Ph.D., M.P.H., received the 2010 *Saxon Graham Award* for overall academic excellence in epidemiology.

 **Yanli Li**, B. Med., was awarded a *Robert O'Shea Student Travel Award* to provide travel funds to present her poster at the Society for Epidemiologic Research/3<sup>rd</sup> North American Congress of Epidemiology. Her poster is entitled "*Associations of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH) Exposure from Traffic Emissions and Biomarkers of Oxidative Stress and Antioxidant Status.*"

 **Jennifer Meng**, M.P.H., won 3<sup>rd</sup> place for her poster entitled "*Intra-Individual Variation in Serum 25-Hydroxyvitamin D Measures Five Years Apart Among Postmenopausal Women*" presented at the Society for Epidemiologic Research/3<sup>rd</sup> North American Congress of Epidemiology meeting.

 **Michelle Roberts**, M.S., was selected for the 2011 *Saxon Graham Research Award* for her proposal entitled "*Expression of Proteins Involved in Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition as Predictors of Metastasis and Survival in Breast Cancer Patients.*" The award provides funds to support research undertaken toward the completion of a doctoral dissertation.

 **William Scheider**, Ph.D., received the 2010 *SPHHP Dean's Award for Community Service*. The award is presented in recognition of achievements in providing professionally relevant community service to further the School's mission to improve the health of populations, communities or individuals over the past year.

 **Marcia Wopperer** was chosen for the 2010 *SPHHP Outstanding Leadership Award* for her contributions toward supporting academic excellence and a strong overall commitment to fulfilling the mission of the School.

## American Association for Cancer Research

The 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) was held in Orlando, FL, April 2-6. The following students presented posters at the meeting:

**Katherine Dobson**, M.P.H., “Air Pollution Exposure and Promoter Methylation of E-cadherin, p16, and RAR- $\beta$  in Breast Cancer Tumors from Cases in the Web Study”

**Joseph Green**, M.A., “Consumption of Lake Ontario Sport Fish and Prostate Cancer Incidence in the New York State Angler Cohort Study (NYSACS)”

**Michelle Roberts**, M.S., “Polymorphisms in Metastasis Suppressor Genes (BRMS1 and SIPA1): Breast Tumor Characteristics and Lymph Node Metastasis”

## American Public Health Association

Mark your calendars! The 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA) will be held October 29-November 2 in Washington, D.C. The theme for this year’s meeting will be “Healthy Communities Promote Healthy Minds and Bodies.” Information regarding registration can be found online at [www.apha.org/meetings/registration](http://www.apha.org/meetings/registration). Take advantage of early bird discounts and register by August 19<sup>th</sup>. SPHHP will sponsor a graduate student recruitment booth at the annual meeting. The Department will be asking for student volunteers to help with our recruitment effort. Please help if you can.

## Society for Epidemiologic Research/ 3<sup>rd</sup> North American Congress of Epidemiology

The 3<sup>rd</sup> North American Congress of Epidemiology was held in Montreal, June 21-24. This meeting is held once every five years and provides a unique opportunity to interact with a diverse group of epidemiologists from 25 professional societies. The following faculty and students from SPM were accepted for poster presentations:

**Matthew Bonner**, Ph.D., “Chlorpyrifos Exposure and the Prevalence of Wheeze Among Egyptian Cotton Workers”

**Kelly Kamm**, M.H.S., “Time Trends and Correlates of Infant Bedsharing in the United States, 2000-2008”

**Yanli Li**, B. Med., “Associations of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH) Exposure from Traffic Emissions and Biomarkers of Oxidative Stress and Antioxidant Status”

**Andrea Licht**, M.S., “The Impact of Socio-Economic Status and Price Minimizing Behaviors on Smoking Cessation: Findings from the International Tobacco Control (ITC) Four Country Survey”

**Jennifer Meng**, M.P.H., “Intra-Individual Variation in Serum 25-Hydroxyvitamin D Measures Five Years Apart Among Postmenopausal Women”

**Amy Millen**, Ph.D., “Plasma 25-Hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D) Concentrations and Periodontal Disease in Postmenopausal Women”

**Jacqueline Mix**, M.P.H., “Coffee and Tea Consumption and Colorectal Cancer Risk”

**Lina Mu**, Ph.D., “Lung Function Response to Dramatic Change in Particulate Matters (PM) Air Pollution Pre-, Mid- and After Beijing Olympics”

## Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SNRT), held February 16-19 in Toronto, hosted several presenters from SPM:

**K. Michael Cummings**, Ph.D., “Utilizing Email to Re-Engage Smokers in the Quitting Process”

**Andrew Hyland**, Ph.D., “Use of Menthol Cigarettes and Nicotine Dependence: Findings From the International Tobacco Control Policy Evaluation Survey”

**Andrea Licht**, M.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” and “Tobacco Retail Outlet Density by Proximity to Schools and Low Income Areas in Western New York”

**Richard O’Connor**, Ph.D., “Contraband Tobacco and Smoking Behavior”

## Faculty/Student Presentations

Poster presentations were recently made by the following SPM faculty and students:

**Sohaib Aleem**, M.B.B.S., “Survey About the Role of Resident Knowledge, Attitude, Practice and Background in

*NAEPP Asthma Guidelines Implementation in an Academic Primary Care Setting*” presented at the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarly Exchange Day 2011 held on April 1.

**Roberto Diaz Del Carpio**, M.D., “*The State of Health Care Quality at the Primary Care Center, Buffalo General Hospital, 2010*,” presented at the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarly Exchange Day 2011 held on April 1.

**Priyanka Dua**, M.P.H., “*Medical Students’ Awareness of National Patient Safety Goals*” presented at the UB Sigma Xi Research Day/7<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Academic Excellence held April 6 at the Center for the Arts.

**Jacqueline Mix**, M.P.H., “*Physical Activity Before and During Pregnancy and Postpartum Depressive Symptoms*” presented at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Perinatal Epidemiologic Research held June 20-21 in Montreal.

**Lisa Rafalson**, Ph.D., “*Blood Pressure and the Risk of Impaired Fasting Glucose. A Sex Specific Effect? The Western New York Health Study*” presented at the American Heart Association’s Joint Conference – Nutrition, Physical Activity and Metabolism and Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention 2011 Scientific Sessions, held March 22 in Atlanta, GA.

## Faculty/Student Research

**John Violanti**, Ph.D. is principal investigator for a \$2.7 million award funded by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The 5-year follow-up will study approximately 465 police officers for whom baseline data and a research protocol already have been established. This new study will examine how job stress affects police officers over time and will provide information on specific causes of stress on police. The findings will be used to develop prevention programs for police officers. Co-investigators include Drs. **Jean Wactawski-Wende** and **Joan Dorn**.

## Preventive Medicine Residency Program

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) has granted the General Preventive Medicine Residency program continued accreditation for five years (2011-2016), the maximum number of years granted for continued accreditation.

Drs. **Sohaib Aleem** and **Roberto Del Carpio** will complete their Internal Medicine/Preventive Medicine Residency Programs on June 30 and July 2, respectively. Dr. Aleem

has accepted a position as assistant professor at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medicine Center in N.H. Dr. Diaz Del Carpio will be appointed director of Quality Improvement – UBMD at Kaleida Health.

Two new residents will join the residency program on July 1: **Imran Ahmad**, M.B.B.S., will begin his PGY III in the Combined Internal Medicine/Preventive Medicine Residency Program; and **Tyler Evans**, M.D., will begin his PGY II in the General Preventive Medicine Residency Cancer Prevention Track. Imran received his M.B.B.S. from the Aga Khan University Medical College in 2006. He began his residency in the Internal Medicine Program at UB in 2009. Tyler received his M.D. from Tel Aviv University/Sackler School of Medicine in 2010 and his M.P.H. from Columbia University/Mailman School of Public Health in 2005. He completed his PGY 1 at the Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center/Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center at the University of Arizona.

**Dhanashari Kohok**, M.B.B.S. has been named chief resident for Preventive Medicine for 2011-2012.

## News and Notes

**Jo Freudenheim**, Ph.D., has been appointed senior editor for the journal *Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers and Prevention*.

**Martin Mahoney**, M.D., Ph.D., has been named vice chair of the American Cancer Society Primary Care Advisory Committee.

**Jean Wactawski-Wende**, Ph.D., is the 2011 elected member of the American Epidemiological Society (AES).

## Alumni News

**Germaine Buck Lewis**, Ph.D., ('87) recently published a textbook entitled *Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology*, edited by Germaine M. Buck Lewis and Robert W. Platt, Oxford University Press 2011.

**Mary Platek**, Ph.D. ('08), has accepted a tenure track faculty position at New York University in the Department of Nutrition, Food Studies and Public Health.

## In Memorium

The Department of SPM recently lost two of its alumni. **Tiejian Wu**, Ph.D. ('99) lost his battle with lung cancer on February 7, 2011. Tiejian joined the Department as a visiting fellow in Fall 1994 and was accepted to the doctoral program the following year. He was awarded his

Ph.D. in 1999. Tiejian received the 1999 Dean's Award for Outstanding Dissertation Research from the School of Medicine and Biomedical Research for his work entitled "Periodontal Disease as a Risk Factor for Cardiovascular Disease." His work earned him the Finalist for the Jeremiah Stamler Research Award for Young Investigators in Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology from the American Heart Association. Dr. Wu was also the recipient of the Buswell Research Fellowship and the Williams Hewlett Postdoctoral Fellowship. Tiejian was an associate professor in the Departments of Family Medicine and Public Health at East Tennessee State University. He is survived by a wife and daughter.

**Julie Baker** passed away on April 26 after a short illness. Julie was awarded her M.S. in Epidemiology in 2000 and her M.D./Ph.D. in 2007. She was completing her residency in the Department of OB-GYN at Women's & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island at Brown University and had planned to return to Buffalo at the time of her death. Her list of awards received during her tenure in graduate school include: American Society of Clinical Pathologists Award for Academic Excellence and Achievement, University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences Dean's Letter of Commendation, NIH Summer Research Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson - Johnson & Johnson Dissertation Grant in Women's Health, 2004 SPHHP Francis V. Hanavan Award, Association of Schools of Allied Health Professional Scholarship for Excellence, and Selected Participant for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual NICHD-IHDCYH Summer Institute in Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology. Julie is survived by her partner.

## ***SPM Graduates: February and June 2011***

The following students successfully completed all degree requirements established by the Department of SPM and the University at Buffalo for 2011 degree conferral. Congratulations to our graduates!

### *Ph.D. Epidemiology*

**David Jaworowicz, Jr.**, M.S., "Pregnancy-Related Characteristics, Genetic Variation in Estrogen-Metabolizing Enzymes, and Maternal Risk of Breast Cancer." Committee members include Drs. Jo Freudenheim (major), Christine Ambrosone and Alan Hutson. David is an associate director for Pharmacometric Services at Cognigen Corporation in Buffalo.

### *M.S. Epidemiology*

**Andrea Licht**, "Socio-Economic Variation in Use of Price Minimizing Behaviors and Subsequent Effects on Cessation Indicators." Committee members include: Drs. Andrew Hyland (major), K. Michael Cummings and

Richard O'Connor. Andrea is continuing her studies in the Ph.D. Program in Epidemiology in the Department of SPM.

**Melissa Robins**, "A Study of the Acceptability and Use of Alcohol Based Waterless Hand Sanitizer Among Street Food Vendors in Pilani, India." Committee members include: Drs. Pavani Ram (major), Matthew Bonner and Carl Li. Melissa is a clinical research coordinator III at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

### *M.P.H. Epidemiology*

**Christina Crabtree**, "Covariates of Indoor Air Pollution in Kamalapur, Bangladesh." Committee members include Drs. Pavani Ram (major) and Carole Rudra. Christina is a research assistant in the Department of SPM.

**Jennifer Meng** – "Intra-Individual Variation in Serum 25-Hydroxyvitamin D Measures Five Years Apart Among Postmenopausal Women." Committee members include Drs. Amy Millen (major) and Carl Li. Jennifer is continuing her studies in the physician assistant program at D'Youville College.

**Olubukunola Okulate**, "A Manuscript Proposal to Analyze Associations Between Vitamin D Status and Hypertension in an Ancillary Study of the Women's Health Initiative." Committee members include Drs. Amy Millen (major) and Michael LaMonte.

### *M.P.H. Environmental Health*

**Mark Glasgow**, "Spatial and Temporal Variation of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in Erie and Niagara Counties, NY: A Descriptive Study." Committee members include Drs. Carole Rudra (major) and William Scheider. Mark is continuing his studies in the Ph.D. Program in Epidemiology in the Department of SPM.

**Alyssa Irla**, "Indoor Air Pollution, Mitochondrial Dysfunction and Lung Cancer Risk for Chinese Women." Committee members include Drs. Lina Mu (major) and James Olson.

### *M.P.H. Health Services*

**Sohaib Aleem**, M.B.B.S., "Role of Provider Knowledge, Attitude and Background in NAEPP Asthma Guidelines Implementation in an Academic Primary Care Setting." Committee members include Drs. Carl Li (major) and Michael LaMonte. Sohaib has accepted a position as assistant professor, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center.

**Laura Becker**, "Addressing Stress in Medical (Student) Education as a Strategy to Reducing Medical Errors in Practice." Committee members include Drs. Frank Schimpfhauser (major) and Carl Li.

**Roberto Diaz Del Carpio**, M.D., "Evaluation of the Primary Care Center at Buffalo General Hospital."

Committee members include Drs. Frank Schimpfhauser (major) and Carl Li. Roberto has accepted a position as director of Quality Improvement – UBMD at Kaleida Health.

**Priyanka Dua**, *“Bridging Inter-Professional Gap (BIG).”* Committee members include Drs. Carl Li (major) and Archanda Mishra.

**Lindsay Heckler**, J.D., *“Aging in Place: Why It Makes Sense.”* Committee members include Dr. Carl Li (major) and Anthony Szczygiel. Lindsay is currently an associate consultant at Franco Signor LLC in Kenmore NY.

**Stacy King**, *“The Effectiveness of Education and Home Management Plans in Reducing Asthma Exacerbations and Hospitalizations in Children with Asthma.”* Committee members include Drs. Carl Li (major) and Dennis Bertram.

**Caroline Mylotte**, *“Costs and Quality of Life Issues in End-of-Life Care and the Impact of End-of-Life Planning.”* Committee members include Drs. Carl Li (major) and Dennis Bertram. Caroline is a researcher at DeGraff Memorial Hospital/WNY Geriatrics.

**Jeffrey Serbin**, M.D., *“Weight Variation with Pharmacological Intervention for Smoking Cessation.”* Committee members include Drs. Carl Li (major) and Martin Mahoney. Jeffrey will complete his Preventive Medicine Residency in September 2011.

**Jennifer Thompson**, *“Sexual Victimization Among College Students: The Role of Alcohol and Other Risk Factors.”* Committee members include Drs. Carl Li (major) and Sherri Darrow. Jennifer is a senior research analyst at the Research Institute on Addictions.