

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>



October 2011

Marcia Wopperer, editor

The Director's Corner


We would like to welcome our incoming class for the 2011-2012 academic year. The class includes three Ph.D., seven M.S., and eight M.P.H. students. Enrollment for all three SPM graduate programs now total 57 students. We wish all students success in their graduate studies!


We are already looking ahead and have begun our recruitment efforts for next year. Several students have volunteered to help us with this endeavor. The Department will sponsor a graduate student recruitment booth at the 139th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association. The meeting will be held October 29-November 2 in Washington, DC. Be sure to stop by our booth if you are attending the meeting.

We wish a fond farewell to **Carole Rudra**, Ph.D., who has accepted a position as research scientist at Independent Health, effective August 15. Her research will focus on the evaluation of Independent Health disease and care management programs. Dr. Rudra joined SPM as an assistant professor in 2007. We wish her every success in her new endeavor.


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

Honors and Awards

 **Margaret Divita, Kelly Kamm and Anne Weaver** were selected to receive *Robert O'Shea Student Travel Awards*. The awards will provide travel funds to present their research at the 60th Annual Meeting of The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

 **Dhanashri Kohok**, M.B.B.S., was selected to receive a 2011-2012 *Quality Improvement Award* for her project entitled "*Management of Cardiovascular Risk Factors at a Renal Transplant Clinic – Interventions to Minimize Clinical Inertia.*" The Office of Graduate Medical

Education (GME) offers up to five awards, each valued at a maximum of \$3,000, to support resident-faculty team projects designed to improve patient care of clinical practice. Projects must be developed and conducted by residents in collaboration with university faculty.

 **Jean Wactawski-Wende**, Ph.D., was chosen to be the first Ph.D. graduate to receive the *School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (SMBS) Distinguished Alumni Award*. She will be honored at a ceremony on October 28 at The Buffalo Club. This is the first year SMBS has included an award for Ph.D. graduates of the school.

The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

The 60th Annual Meeting of The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene will be held December 4-8 in Philadelphia. Presentations will be made by the following SPM students:

Christina Crabtree-Ide, M.P.H., poster entitled "*Household Factors Associated with Indoor Air Pollution in a Low-Income Urban Area in Bangladesh*"

Margaret Divita, M.S., poster entitled "*Impact of Intensive Handwashing Promotion on Household Transmission of Influenza in a Low Income Setting: Preliminary Results of a Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial*"

Kelly Kamm, M.H.S., paper entitled "*Associations with Handwashing in the Home and Respiratory and Diarrheal Illness in Children Under Five Years Old in Rural Western Kenya*"

Anne Weaver, M.S., poster entitled "*Factors Associated with Appropriate Household Diarrhea Case Management in Hospitalized Children, Nyanza Province, Kenya, 2007*"

J. Warren Perry Lecture

The 23rd Annual J. Warren Perry Lecture, sponsored by the SPHHP, will be held on November 4. A poster presentation will be held at noon in 105 Harriman Hall. Posters from the following SPM faculty and students will be included in the lineup:

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

Andrea Licht, M.S., *“Tobacco Retail Outlet Density, Proximity to Schools, and Low Income Areas: City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York”*

Henry Lin, B.S., *“Socioeconomic Status, Food Reinforcement and Obesity”*

Jennifer Meng, M.P.H. ('11), *“Intra-Individual Variation in Serum 25-Hydroxyvitamin D Measures 5 Years Apart Among Postmenopausal Women”*

Michael Noe, M.D., M.P.H., *“463-P The Health Improvement Project (HIP): A Report on the Outcome of an Intensive Medical Intervention for Class III Obesity”*

Amanda Ziegler, B.S., *“Sensitization of Food Reinforcement Predicts Weight Gain in Adults”*

Following the poster presentations Dr. David Katz, associate professor of Public Health and director of the Prevention Research Center at Yale University School of Medicine will present a seminar entitled *“The Road to Health is Paved with Good Intentions.”*

Faculty/Student Presentations

Amy Millen, Ph.D., was an invited speaker for the Nutrition and Physical Activity Affinity Group at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle on June 15. Her talk was entitled *“Predictors and Intra-Individual Variation of 25-Hydroxyvitamin D (OH)D and 25 (OH)D’s Association With Diseases of Aging: Observations from the Women’s Health Initiative.”* She also gave an invited talk, *“A Potential Role of Vitamin D in Retinal Diseases of Aging,”* at the REI Vision Research Center joint lab meeting at the WNY VA Hospital on July 26. Dr. Millen was interviewed for the *Eye on Vision Radio Program* (WYPL in Memphis, TN) on May 13. Her interview regarding vitamin D and age-related macular degeneration can be found on podcast files at http://eyeonvision.blogspot.com/2011_03_01_archive.html.

Heather Ochs-Balcom, Ph.D., presented a talk entitled *“The Jewels in Our Genes Study: Locating African American Families for Breast Cancer Research,”* and a

poster entitled *“ESR1 Variants Are Not Associated With Breast Cancer in African American Women”* at the Fourth Annual American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities. The meeting was held September 18-21 in Washington, DC. Dr. Ochs-Balcom also presented two posters at the American Society of Human Genetics/International Congress of Human Genetics meeting held October 11-15 in Montreal: *“Admixture Mapping of Fat Mass in African American Women Identifies Region on 3q13.31,”* and *“Admixture Analyses Identify Region on 19q13 Associated With Femoral Neck Bone Mineral Density in African American Women from the Women’s Health Initiative-SNP Health Association Resource (WHI-SHARe).”*

William Scheider, Ph.D., presented a poster entitled *“Organizing Communities to Improve Health: Reducing Air Pollution in Tonawanda, New York”* on October 13 at the P2 Collaborative annual conference held in Buffalo.

Deirdre Wheat, M.B.B.Ch., M.P.H., ('10) was selected for a roundtable presentation at the American Public Health Association (APHA) meeting to be held in Washington, DC, October 29-November 2. The title of her paper is *“A Multimedia Learner-Centered Health Promotion Intervention Created for Mental Health Care Recipients, Healthcare Providers, and Caregivers.”* She will also present a poster entitled *“Utility of Nicotine Inhalers Among Inpatients at a New York State Mental Health Facility.”*

Faculty/Student Research

Christine Ambrosone, Ph.D., is co-principal investigator, in collaboration with researchers from Slone Epidemiology Center at Boston University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, on a national study investigating the causes of breast cancer among African-American women. The five-year, \$19.3M award from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) is the largest study to date on breast cancer in African-Americans. It will involve 5,500 African-American women from four ongoing studies – the Carolina Breast Cancer Study, the Women’s Circle of Health Study, the Black Women’s Health Study, and the Multiethnic Cohort Study – as well as 5,500 controls. This investigation will be the first to develop comprehensive models for contributions of genetic and non-genetic risk factors for breast cancer subtypes in African-American women. The goal is to discover genetic, biologic, reproductive and behavioral risks for breast cancer subgroups defined by tumor biology and age at onset of disease.

Andrew Hyland, Ph.D., was awarded a \$4,263,774 five-year grant entitled *“Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act National Longitudinal Study”* from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). The National Longitudinal Survey of Tobacco Use (NLSTU) will develop a cohort of nearly 38,000 adults and 7,000 adolescents

who will provide baseline biospecimens and annual tobacco use survey data. The NLSTU will heavily oversample tobacco users, young adults, racial/ethnic minorities, and those susceptible to tobacco use as it creates a framework for both evaluating FDA regulations on tobacco as well as broader scientific issues related to tobacco use. Dr. Hyland was also recently awarded two grants from the National Cancer Institute. *"A Community Trial to Speed the Diffusion of Smoke Free Multiunit Housing Policies"* is a five-year, \$548,114 grant whose aim is to conduct a randomized community-based intervention to test whether increases in SHS knowledge, support for smoke-free MUH policies, and actual policy implementation can be achieved through an educational intervention that delivers credible scientific information to the appropriate target audiences. A one-year, \$341,319 grant, *"Monitoring and Assessing the Impact of Tax and Price Policies on US Tobacco Use,"* will help to improve understanding of the impact of tobacco tax and price policies on tobacco use and related behaviors. This will be done through a combination of original data collection; acquisition of existing archival, survey, and commercial databases; and merged data analyses that build on the research team's work as part of the Bridging the Gap/ImpacTeen (BTG) project, the International Tobacco Control Policy Evaluation Study (ITC), and related efforts.

Pavani Ram, M.D., is principal investigator for two recently awarded grants. *"Impact Evaluation of Cholera Vaccine and Behavior Change Interventions in Urban Dhaka,"* a one-year grant funded by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, subcontracted through the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, will examine the effectiveness of intervention with an oral cholera vaccine and the effectiveness of a handwashing and home water treatment behavior change in reducing diarrhea due to cholera. A second award from UNICEF will provide support for monitoring and evaluating handwashing promotion programs managed by UNICEF country offices.

News and Notes

Sarah Ackroyd and **Amanda Ziegler** were nominated to serve as MPH ambassadors from the Department of SPM. The role of ambassador is to represent SPHHP at selected regional recruitment and other activities where the school has a presence.

Katie Dobson Amato, **Joseph Green**, **Kelly Kamm** and **Yanli Li** successfully passed their Preliminary Exams.

Imran Ahmad, M.B.B.S., was elected to the UB Residents' Committee (UBRC) for 2011-2012. He will represent Preventive Medicine residents in matters related to all aspects of residency education and serve as a liaison to the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC).

K. Michael Cummings, Ph.D., retired from Roswell Park Cancer Institute, effective September 29, after more than

30 years of service. He has relocated to South Carolina where he has accepted a position in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Andrew Hyland, Ph.D., has been appointed chair of the Department of Health Behavior at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

James Olson, Ph.D., recently completed his service on the National Academies Institute of Medicine panel on Veterans and Agent Orange. The panel biennially reviews studies published in peer reviewed journals and issues a report to the Veterans Administration on the health effects associated with exposure to herbicides used during the Vietnam War. The biennial reports will continue through 2014.

Maurizio Trevisan, M.D., has accepted a position as dean at the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education at City College of New York, effective August 1.

Alumni News

Priyanka Dua, M.P.H. ('11), is working as a Community Health Intern at Kaleida Health.

Walter Iwanenko, Ph.D. ('03), has been named dean of Graduate Studies at Hilbert College, effective July 2011.

Nicoleta Voian, M.D., M.P.H. ('09), has accepted a position as director of clinical genetics at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

SPM Graduates: September 2011

The following students successfully completed all degree requirements established by the Department of SPM and the University at Buffalo for September 1, 2011 degree conferral. Congratulations to our graduates!

M.S. Epidemiology

William Lainhart, *"Characterization of the 2009 Influenza Pandemic Using Absenteeism Data Collected with a School-Based Surveillance System in Erie County, NY."* Committee members include Drs. Pavani Ram (major), Heather Lindstrom and Jihnhee Yu. Bill is continuing his doctoral studies in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the University at Albany.

Sarah Morrow, M.D., *"The Effect of Years of Achieved Education on the Relationship Between Deep Gray Matter Atrophy and Impairment on Measures of Processing Speed in Multiple Sclerosis."* Committee members include Drs. Jean Wactawski-Wende (major), Ralph Benedict and Bianca Weinstock-Guttman. Sarah is an assistant

professor of neurology in the Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences, University of Western Ontario.

M.P.H. Health Services

Tara Short, J.D., “*Fighting Obesity Through Legal Interventions.*” Committee members include Drs. Donald Rowe and Carl Li.

SPM News Students Fall 2011

The Department of SPM welcomes our new students entering Fall 2011.

Ph.D. Epidemiology

Mark Glasgow, B.S. biotechnology and M.P.H., University at Buffalo. Mark is a predoctoral fellow in the Cancer Epidemiology Multidisciplinary Program in the Department of SPM.

Albina Minlikeeva, B.S. health sciences, Northeastern University; M.P.H., SUNY Upstate Medical University.

Ajay Myneni, M.B.B.S., Manipal Academy of Higher Education; M.P.H., University of Illinois.

M.S. Epidemiology

Rikki Cannioto, Ed.D. health promotion, University of Kentucky; B.S. psychology and physical education, SUNY College at Brockport. Rikki is an assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology, Sport Studies and Physical Education at SUNY College at Brockport.

Tyler Evans, M.D., Sackler School of Medicine, New York State American Branch; B.S. gerontology, University of Southern California – Los Angeles; M.P.H., Columbia University. Tyler is a PGY II in the Preventive Medicine Residency Program Cancer Prevention Track.

Swapna Kumar, B.S. biomedical engineering, University of Rochester.

Henry Lin, B.S. microbiology. Henry is a student in the MD/PhD Medical Scientist Training Program at the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Jordon Rabey, B.S. biomedical sciences, University at Buffalo.

Emily Truesdell, B.S. biochemistry/biomedical sciences, University at Buffalo.

Arthi Vasantharoopan, B.H.Sc. health sciences, University of Ottawa.

M.P.H. Epidemiology

Imran Ahmad, M.B.B.S., Aga Khan University. Imran is a PGY III in the Combined Internal Medicine/Preventive Medicine Residency Program.

Lamya Hamad, B.S. pharmacological sciences, Cairo University.

Elizabeth Mills, B.S. psychology, University at Buffalo.

M.P.H. Environmental Health

Christopher Fenar, B.A. history, University at Buffalo.

M.P.H. Health Services

Sarah Ackroyd, B.A. statistics and B.S. biochemistry/psychology, University of Rochester.

Robert Reed, B.S. finance, Boston College. Robert is a quality analyst at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Bi Tadzong, M.D., Hershey Pennsylvania State College of Medicine; B.S. biochemistry, University of Maryland. Bi is a PGY II in the Preventive Medicine Residency Program.

Amanda Ziegler, B.S. biochemistry, University of Rochester.

New Course Offering Spring 2012

SPM 522FRE Selected Topics: A Life Course Approach to Chronic Disease Epidemiology

(3 credits)*

Reg. No. 24249

Instructor: Jo Freudenheim, Ph.D.

Thursday 9:00-11:40

There is increasing evidence in order to understand the etiology of chronic diseases it is important to examine early life events. This course will be an exploration of what the emerging understanding is of the role of early life in adult chronic diseases and the methodological issues inherent in the study of such risk factors. We will examine current literature as well as recent reviews, both of epidemiology and of relevant research on potential mechanisms. The course will have a seminar format.

*Note: Selected Topics courses are variable credit. Be sure to confirm your registration for 3 credit hours.