

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 2012

Marcia Wopperer, editor

The Director's Corner


A Comprehensive Review of the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine was held on October 1 and 2. The site visitor evaluators met with the SPHHP dean and dean of the Graduate School, SPM faculty, staff and students to review the Department and its academic programs. The evaluators will submit a report with their recommendations within four to eight weeks following the site visit.


We would like to welcome our incoming class for 2012-2013. The class includes six Ph.D., five M.S., and 21 M.P.H. students. Enrollment for all SPM programs total 69 students. We wish all students success in their graduate studies!

We have already begun our recruiting efforts for the 2013-2014 academic year. SPM was represented at the UB Open House held on October 20. If you know of any groups that reach undergraduates who might be interested in our programs, and would be willing to have someone from SPM give a talk, please let us know.


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


Honors and Awards


 **Christina Crabtree-Ide, M.P.H., Xiaodan Mai, B.S., Elizabeth McLean-Plunkett, M.S., Michelle Sahli, M.S., and Anne Weaver, M.S.,** received *Robert O'Shea Student Travel Awards* which provides travel funds for students to present their research at national meetings.


 **Diana Faustin, B.S.,** was awarded an Arthur A. Schomburg Fellowship from the University at Buffalo. Fellowships are awarded to students from


underrepresented groups who have completed their undergraduate studies with distinction. Recipients receive a full tuition scholarship with stipend.

 **Lamya Hamad, B.S. and Mara Pusateri, B.A.,** were awarded USDHHS *Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Fellowships* for the 2012-2013 academic year. Awards are made on the basis of merit and/or need to first and second year M.P.H. students in the concentrations identified as having a severe shortage of health professionals: biostatistics, environmental health and epidemiology.

 **Jenna Kearly, B.S. and Juliana Wilson, D.O.,** were chosen to receive the first *Julie Baker Scholarship Awards*. The award is made to outstanding first year master's students in the Department of SPM, and honors the memory of Dr. Julie Baker, a 2007 graduate of the UB MD/PhD Program in Epidemiology and Community Health.

 **Henry Lin, B.S.,** was awarded a *Mark Diamond Research* grant from the UB Graduate Student Association for his doctoral research in Neuroscience. The grant provides funds to graduate students for research expenses related to their thesis/dissertation. In addition to completing an M.S. in Epidemiology, Henry is also a M.D./Ph.D. candidate in the School of Medicine's Medical Scientist Training Program. The title of his dissertation is "*Effect of Affective Content and Time Perspective of Episodic Thinking on Delay Discounting.*"

 **Heather Ochs-Balcom, Ph.D.,** received a *UB Exceptional Scholar Young Investigator Award*. The award is presented to untenured researchers whose work has garnered universal acclaim or was completed under the auspices of a prestigious fellowship grant.

 **James Olson, Ph.D.,** was named *UB Distinguished Professor* in the Departments of Pharmacology and Toxicology, and SPM. The designation recognizes full professors who are leaders in their field. Dr. Olson is the Director of the Division of Environmental Health Sciences in SPM. His expertise is in the fields of toxicology and environmental health.



Caila Vaughn, M.P.H., was awarded a *Presidential Fellowship* from the University at Buffalo. The goal of the fellowship, which includes a partial stipend and tuition scholarship, is to recruit outstanding graduate students to the University.

American Public Health Association

The 140th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association Meeting will be held October 27-31 in San Francisco, CA. This year's theme, *Prevention and Wellness Across the Life Span*, presents the opportunity to discuss the impact prevention and wellness have on health at all ages, both physical and mental. The following presentations will be made by SPM faculty and students:

Xiaodan Mai, B.S., "*Smoking and Tooth Loss Associations Differ by Reason for Tooth Loss: The OsteoPerio Study, a Women's Health Initiative Ancillary Study*"

Elizabeth McLean-Plunkett, M.S., "*Vitamin D and Calcium Intake and Prevalent Periodontal Disease in Postmenopausal Women in the Osteoporosis and Periodontal Disease (OsteoPerio) Study, an Ancillary Study of the Women's Health Initiative Observational Study*"

Amy Millen, Ph.D., "*No Association Between 25-Hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D) and Five-Year Change in Alveolar Crestal Height (ACH) Among Postmenopausal Women Participating in the Osteoporosis and Periodontal Disease Study*"

Michelle Sahli, M.S., "*25-Hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D) Concentrations and Pathogenic Oral Bacteria in Postmenopausal Women in the Osteoporosis and Periodontal Study (OsteoPerio Study)*"

American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

The 61st Annual Meeting of The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene will be held November 11-15 in Atlanta, GA. Presenters from SPM include:

Christina Crabtree-Ide, M.P.H., poster entitled "*Validation of an Index of Proxy Measures and Self-Reported Handwashing Behavior in Dhaka, Bangladesh*"

Kelly Kamm, M.H.S., presentation entitled "*Impact of a Brief In-Home Neonatal Health Promotion on Self-Reported Birth and Neonatal Care Practices Among Primiparous Women in the Third Trimester in Rural Bangladesh*"

Pavani Ram, M.D., presentation entitled "*Individual Level Risk Factors for Secondary Transmission of Influenza-Like Illness: Secondary Data Analysis from the Bangladesh Interruption of Secondary Transmission of Influenza Study (BISTIS)*"

Michelle Sahli, M.S., poster entitled "*Association Between Efficiently Collected Measures and Observed Measures of Handwashing Behavior in the Impact Evaluation of the Global Scaling Up Handwashing Project in Vietnam*"

Jelena Vujcic, M.P.H., poster entitled "*Measuring Contamination of Children's Toys to Evaluate Household Sanitation Improvements in Rural Bangladesh*"

Anne Weaver, M.S., poster entitled "*Pilot Intervention Study of Household Ventilation and Fine Particulate Matter Concentration in a Low-Income Urban Area, Dhaka, Bangladesh*"

Faculty/Student Presentations

Lina Mu, M.D., Ph.D., presented a paper at the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) Annual Conference entitled "*Do Drastic Changes in Air Quality Affect Antioxidant Enzymes Activity?*" The conference was held August 28 in Columbia, SC.

William Scheider, Ph.D., presented a position paper entitled "*Air Quality, Asthma, and the Buffalo Peace Bridge, A Review of the NYS/DEC/DOH White Paper*" to the City of Buffalo Common Council Committee on Community Development. The paper was presented at the October 23 meeting.

Caila Vaughn, M.P.H., will present a poster entitled "*Racial Differences in Associations of IGFs and Genetic Variants With Colon Adenoma*" at the American Society of Human Genetics Annual Meeting, November 6-10 in San Francisco, CA.

Faculty/Student Research

Jo Freudenheim, Ph.D., received a five-year, \$1,385,249 continuation award from the National Cancer Institute (NIH/NCI) for the training program entitled "*Interdisciplinary Training in Cancer Epidemiology at UB.*" The program is open to pre-doctoral fellows in cancer epidemiology, and offers an interdisciplinary component including an understanding of cancer biology. The objectives of the training grant are to recruit outstanding pre-doctoral fellows with a background in epidemiology or another relevant field; and offer training in cancer epidemiology and control with an integrated understanding of cancer biology, pathology and other relevant fields. Pre-doctoral fellows take advantage of the opportunities and resources available through the partnership of

epidemiologists and other scientists at UB and RPCI providing tailored, hands-on opportunities to develop research skills in cancer epidemiology and control as well as other related disciplines including biostatistics, cancer biology, cancer genetics, health behavior, toxicology, nutrition, immunology, or geographic information systems. Pre-doctoral fellows will also gain an understanding of and experience in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary collaborative research. The training grant provides a stipend, tuition scholarship and funds for research related expenses for each of the fellows. **Kirsten Moysich**, Ph.D., is co-principal investigator, and **Matthew Bonner**, Ph.D. is co-investigator on the grant.

Susan McCann, Ph.D., is co-principal investigator on a five-year, \$4,342,087 grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) entitled "*Flaxseed Effects on Hormones and Lignans: Role of Race, Genes, and Gut Microbiome.*" The study proposes to examine the effect of individual differences in gut bacterial community composition, genes, and race on hormone metabolism after a flaxseed intervention in healthy, postmenopausal women.

Amy Millen, Ph.D., is principal investigator on an NIH National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) subcontract entitled "*Osteoporosis and Periodontal Feasibility Study.*" The six-month, \$20,000 study will assess the feasibility of conducting a ten-year follow-up of participants from the Osteoporosis and Periodontal Disease ancillary studies of the Women's Health Initiative Observational Study conducted in Buffalo, NY.

Pavani Ram, M.D., was recently awarded two grants. "*Saving Lives at Birth*" is a \$250,000 two-year partnership between USAID, the Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges Canada, UK AID, and the government of Norway. The project is a randomized controlled trial to investigate the behavioral impact of waterless hand cleansing among birth attendants, and mothers and family members of neonates. "*An Investigation of the Behavioral and Health Impacts of Promoting Waterless Hand Cleansing in a Humanitarian Emergency*" is a one-year, \$411,000 grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The goal of the project is to prevent high rates of diarrhea mortality among young children affected by humanitarian emergencies by investigating the acceptability and barriers to use of alcohol-based and non-alcohol based waterless hand sanitizers in a displaced persons' settlement.

John Violanti, Ph.D., was awarded a four-year, \$360,674 grant from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) entitled "*Stressors and Microvascular Subclinical Cardiovascular Disease in Police Officers.*" This study will examine associations between occupational stressors and microvascular subclinical cardiovascular disease (CVD) by utilizing retinal imaging. The study will also assess Cystatin C, a marker of early renal microvascular damage and vitamin D. **Amy Millen**, Ph.D. is co-investigator on the grant. Dr. Violanti is also principal investigator for a \$57,777 NIOSH grant entitled "*Analysis of Cardiovascular Biomarkers in the BCOPS Study.*" The

study will perform an analysis of three cardiovascular biomarkers in police officers.

News and Notes

Rashmi Bismark, M.D. has been appointed chief resident for the Preventive Medicine Residency Program for 2012-2013.

Christina Crabtree-Ide, **Anushree Sharma**, **Caila Vaughn**, **Youjin Wang** and **Cong Yu** were awarded graduate assistantships for their first year in the doctoral program.

Pavani Ram, M.D., was promoted to associate professor in the Department of SPM, effective August 1.

Maurizio Trevisan, M.D., M.S., has been appointed interim provost of City College, effective September 1. He will continue to serve as dean of the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education at The City College of New York.

John Violanti, Ph.D., participated in a Law Enforcement Executives Summit at the invitation of U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder. The summit, held at the U.S. Department of Justice, discussed the challenges related to policing in the present economy, procedural justice and officer wellness and safety.

Anne Weaver, M.S., was appointed trainee on a National Institutes of Health (NIH) *Training in Microbial Pathogenesis Training Grant* in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at UB.

Alumni News

Shauna Zorich, M.D., M.P.H. ('08) was recently featured as a UB "*Great Grad*". Shauna was awarded her M.D. in 2005 and completed a two year General Preventive Medicine Residency which included the M.P.H. in 2008. Upon graduating from UB, she joined the Air Force and is currently working at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base as a preventive medicine consultant for the epidemiology consult service, the public health and preventive medicine hub of the Air Force. She is also a physician consultant on the influenza team and assists in the management of the team.

Preventive Medicine Residency Program

Drs. **Khalil Alshaer** and **Erin Campbell** began their PGY II in the General Preventive Medicine Residency Program on July 1. Dr. Alshaer received his M.D. from Ross

University School of Medicine in 2006 and completed his PGY I in Family Medicine at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center in Syracuse, NY. Dr. Campbell received her M.D. from the University at Buffalo in 2009 and completed her PGY I in Pediatrics from the University of Rochester.

SPM Graduate Student Association

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) of the Department of SPM recently elected new officers for the 2012-2013 academic year: **Rachel Rizzo**, president; **Elizabeth Mills**, vice president; **Aditi Kallianpur**, treasurer; **Jaime Mund**, secretary; **Michael Healy**, senator; and **Kelly Miloski**, alternate senator.

SPM Graduates: September 2012

The following students successfully completed all degree requirements established by the Department of SPM and the University at Buffalo for September 1, 2012 degree conferral. Congratulations to our graduates!

Ph.D. Epidemiology

Gabrielle Foley, J.D., M.P.H., "*The Relationship Between Structural and Policy Level Changes at the Workplace and Employee Health Indicators as Part of a Worksite Health Promotion Program: Findings from the WNY Wellness Works Study.*" Committee members include Drs. Joan Dorn (major), Gary Giovino, and Gregory Wilding. Gaby is an associate attorney at Phillips Lytle, LLP, in Buffalo.

M.S. Epidemiology

Mahrin Kader, M.P.H., "*A Lifestyle Weight Loss Intervention Among Severely Obese Patients and Its Impact on Structural and Functional Subclinical CVD.*" Committee members include Drs. Joan Dorn (major), Lucy Mastrandrea and Michael Noe. Mahrin is clinical data manager at CCBR-Synarc in San Francisco, CA.

Elizabeth McLean-Plunkett, "*Vitamin D and Calcium Intake and Prevalence of Periodontal Disease in Postmenopausal Women.*" Committee members include Drs. Amy Millen (major), Jean Wactawski-Wende and Jo Freudenheim. Elizabeth is currently a student in the UB School of Nursing.

Rachel Rizzo, "*The Longitudinal Association Between Measures of Periodontal Disease and Self-Reported Physical Functioning in Postmenopausal Women Enrolled in the Buffalo Osteo-Perio Study.*" Committee members include Drs. Michael LaMonte (major), Jean Wactawski-Wende and Robert Genco. Rachel is a student in the M.P.H. Program in the Department of SPM.

Michelle Sahli, "*The Association Between Plasma 25-Hydroxyvitamin D Concentration and Oral Bacteria Among Postmenopausal Women.*" Committee members include Drs. Amy Millen (major), Pavani Ram and Jean Wactawski-Wende. Michelle is currently in the Ph.D. Program in Epidemiology in the Department of SPM.

News Students Fall 2012

The Department of SPM welcomes our new students for Fall 2012.

Ph.D. Epidemiology

Catherine Callahan, M.A., George Washington University; B.A. political science, SUNY Albany.

Christina Crabtree-Ide, M.P.H., University at Buffalo; B.A. public policy, Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

Anushree Sharma, M.P.H., University at Buffalo; B.S. biology, University of Texas – Austin.

Caila Vaughn, M.P.H., University at Buffalo; B.S. biological science, Le Moyne College.

Youjin Wang, B.Pharmacy, Sookmyung Women's University.

Cong Yu, M.A. biochemistry, University at Buffalo; B.S. biotechnology, College of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Beijing Forestry University.

M.S. Epidemiology

Diana Faustin, B.S. health and nutrition, CUNY Brooklyn College.

Amanda Hassinger, M.D., University at Buffalo; B.S. biological anthropology, Duke University.

Jaime Mund, B.S. natural science, Daemen College.

Marina Oktapodas, B.S. psychology, University at Buffalo.

Leeann Okussick, B.S. biology, Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

M.P.H. Epidemiology

Linda Agyemang, B.S. health science, CUNY Brooklyn College.

Jeffrey Fine, B.S. biochemistry, University of Nevada – Reno.

M.P.H. Health Services

Michael Healy, B.S. psychology, University at Buffalo.

Aditi Kallianpur, B.Ec. economics/sociology, Rutgers SUNJ.

Jenna Kearly, B.S. pharmacology/psychology, University at Buffalo.

Jessica Meyers, pre-pharmacy, University at Buffalo. Jessica is a student in the M.P.H./Pharm.D. Dual Degree Program.

Fiyidi Mikailu, B.S. biotechnology, University at Buffalo.

Hena Samdani, M.B.B.S., Dow Medical College.

M.P.H. Environmental Health

Evan Delfs, B.S. physical education/exercise science, SUNY Brockport.

Ross Johnston, B.S. pharmacology/political science, University at Buffalo.

Mara Pusateri, B.A. archaeology, technology, and historical structures, University of Rochester.

Khalil Alshaer, M.D., Ross University School of Medicine; B.S. medical technology, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Karina Armstrong, B.A.Sc. psychology, McMaster University. Karina is a student in the M.P.H./M.B.A program.

JoAnn Greenzweig, M.L.S. and B.A. computer science, University at Buffalo.

Lyndsey Milcarek, B.S./B.A. medical technology/anthropology, University at Buffalo.

Kelly Miloski, B.S.H.S. health/health administration, SUNY Cortland.

Rachel Rizzo, M.S., University at Buffalo; B.S. natural science/biology, Daemen College.

Vanessa Scott, B.A. psychology/English, University at Buffalo. Vanessa is a student in the M.P.H./M.S.W. Dual Degree Program.

Alexandra Warner, B.S. psychology, University at Buffalo.

Danise Wilson, B.S. business/management, Daemen College.

Juliana Wilson, D.O., Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine; B.S. exercise physiology and business management, Brigham Young University.