

SPM NEWS

Department of Social and Preventive Medicine

School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP)

University at Buffalo

<http://sphhp.buffalo.edu/social-and-preventive-medicine.html>



October 2013

Marcia Wopperer, editor

The Director's Corner

We would like to welcome our incoming class for 2013-2014. The class includes five Ph.D., six M.S., and 18 M.P.H. students. Current enrollment for all SPM graduate programs total 80 students. We wish all new and continuing students success in their graduate studies!

SPHHP will sponsor a graduate student recruitment booth at the 141st Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association. This year's meeting will be held November 2-6 in Boston, MA. Be sure to stop by the booth if you are attending the meeting.

SPM has begun data collection for the upcoming Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accreditation site visit scheduled for September 15-17, 2014. A self-study document will be submitted by the School prior to the site visit.

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

Honors and Awards



Laurie Grieshober, M.A., was awarded an *Institute of Strategic Enhancement of Educational Diversity (ISEED) Award* from the Graduate Scholar Program at the University at Buffalo. The objective of the Institute is to enroll one graduate student from underrepresented backgrounds for each participating school in the program. The award includes a stipend and tuition scholarship.



Melissa Graham, B.S., received the *Julie Baker Scholarship Award*. The award is made to an outstanding first year master's student 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.



Ikea Mulkey, B.S., **Steffanie Rydzik**, B.A., **Allison Soucise**, B.A., and **Alexandra Sullivan**, B.A., were selected to receive a *SPHHP/SPM Master's Student Scholarship Award*. The award is made to outstanding master's degree applicants in the field of epidemiology, environmental health and health services administration.

Faculty/Student Research

Kirsten Moysich, Ph.D., is co-principal investigator of the Roswell Park Cancer Institute – University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (RPCI-UPCI) Ovarian Cancer Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE). The five-year \$11,350,500 grant will investigate novel immunotherapeutic approaches in ovarian cancer. This is the first SPORE grant ever awarded in Buffalo and is one of only five Ovarian Cancer SPORES in the country. Dr. Moysich is leader of Individual Research Project 4 entitled "*Myeloid Derived Suppressor Cells in Ovarian Carcinogenesis*." She is also co-leader of the Administration Core, leader of the Career Development Program, and leader of the Development Research Program.

Faculty/Student Presentations

Jo Freudenheim, Ph.D., presented a paper entitled "*Early Life Nutritional Exposures and Risk of Breast Cancer: Changes in DNA Methylation as a Possible Mechanism*" at the annual meeting of the American Society for Nutrition for Experimental Biology. The meeting was held in Boston on April 24.

Jacqueline Mix, M.P.H., will present three posters at the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation meeting held in National Harbor, MD, October 3-6: "*Impact of Pressure Ulcers on Outcomes in Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities*," "*Length of Stay at Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility and Stroke Patient*

Outcomes,” and “Stroke Onset to Rehabilitation Admission and Patient Outcomes.”

Heather Ochs-Balcom, Ph.D., presented a poster entitled “Genome-Wide Copy Number Variation and Breast Cancer in African American Women” at the International Genetic Epidemiologic Society Annual Meeting held September 16 in Chicago, IL.

William Scheider, Ph.D., will serve as moderator for the *Building Blocks for Evidence-Based Environmental Policy* session at the 141 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA) held November 2-6 in Boston, MA. He will also present a poster at the meeting entitled “Application of Geographic Mapping to Community Advocacy and Environmental Health Policy-Making.”

John Violanti, Ph.D., served as committee member on the Department of Homeland Security Workforce Resilience, Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, Washington, DC. The resulting publication “A Ready and Resilient Workforce for the Department of Homeland Security: Protecting America’s Front Line” was released on September 12.

News and Notes

Fiyidi Mikailu and **Alexandra Warner** were nominated and selected to serve as SPHP Public Health Ambassadors for 2013-2014.

Amy Millen, Ph.D., and **Lina Mu**, M.D., Ph.D., were promoted to associate professor effective August 1.

Alumni News

Germaine Buck Louis, Ph.D., ('87) was elected president of the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) effective September 2013.

Abhishek Sawant, M.B.B.S., M.P.H. ('05) is currently a cardiology research fellow at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

SPM Graduate Student Association

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) of the Department of SPM recently elected new officers for the 2013-2014 academic year: **Michael Healy**, president; **Devon Smith-Rankin**, vice president; **Anushree Sharma**, secretary; **Steffanie Rydzik**, treasurer; **Mara Pusateri**,

senator. **Ross Johnston** and **Aditi Kallianpur** will serve as alternate senators.

SPM Graduates

The following students successfully completed all degree requirements established by the Department of SPM and the University at Buffalo for September 1, 2013 degree conferral. Congratulations to our graduates!

Ph.D. Epidemiology

Margaret DiVita, M.S., “Examination of the Association Between Two Federal Quality Indicators and Established Patient Functional Indicators in Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities.” Committee members included Drs. Jo Freudenheim (major), Carl Granger and Randolph Carter. Margaret is currently a senior research analyst in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, University at Buffalo.

M.S. Epidemiology

Rikki Cannioto, Ed.D., “Do Adipokines Mediate the Association Between Obesity and Adenomatous Colon Polyps?” Committee members included Drs. Heather Ochs-Balcom (major), Amy Millen, Jo Freudenheim and Li Li. Rikki is continuing her studies in the Cancer Prevention Doctoral Program at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Swapna Kumar, B.S., “Adherence to the Dietary Guidelines and Prevalence of Periodontal Disease: The Buffalo OsteoPerio Study.” Committee members included Drs. Amy Millen (major), Michael LaMonte and Jean Wactawski-Wende. Swapna is currently a research assistant in the Department of SPM.

New Students

The Department of SPM welcomes our new students for Fall 2013.

Ph.D. Epidemiology

Mu Ge, M.B. clinical medicine, Nanchang University; M.P.H., University of Georgia.

Laurie Grieshofer, B.S. mathematics, Clarion University of Pennsylvania; M.A. mathematics, University at Buffalo.

Sonia Sharma-Agrawal, B.D.S., Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Avadh University.

Holly Shaw, B.S. bioinformatics, Canisius College; M.S. clinical research administration, George Washington University.

Wit Wichaidit, B.S. biology, Kasetsart University; M.S. tropical medicine, Mahidol University.

M.S. Epidemiology

Emily Gower, B.S. public health, George Washington University.

Melissa Graham, B.S. biology, SUNY/Geneseo.

Janine Joseph, B.A. economics/French, Canisius College; M.B.A., University of Rochester.

Wudeneh Mulugeta, B.S. biochemistry, University of Washington; M.D., St. George's University School of Medicine; M.P.H., SUNY/Downstate.

Robert Parker, B.S. biochemistry, University at Buffalo.

Allison Soucise, B.A. mathematics, University at Buffalo.

M.P.H. Epidemiology

Zubair Butt, M.B.B.S., Government Medical College.

Mattie Dibbell, B.S. pharmacology, University at Buffalo.

Christina D'Orazio, B.A. psychology, Buffalo State College.

Stephanie Kellner, B.A. biological sciences/anthropology, University of Missouri.

Bridget Kruszka, B.A. epidemiology, University of Rochester.

Ikea Mulkey, B.S. pharmacology/toxicology, University at Buffalo.

Kaitlin Wisnieski, B.A. biology/pharmacology/toxicology, University at Buffalo.

M.P.H. Environmental Health

Mallory Hardick, B.S. biochemistry, Canisius College.

Alexandra Sullivan, B.A. environmental studies, University at Buffalo.

M.P.H. Health Services

Michael Burns, B.S. pre-pharmacy, University at Buffalo.

Melanie DeMarse, B.S.W, Nazareth College, M.S.W., University at Buffalo.

Leigh DiFilippo, B.A. epidemiology, University of Rochester.

Aparanjita Kolluru, B.S. biomedical engineering, Rutgers University; M.B.B.S., Kastuba Medical College.

Christine Lam, B.S advertising, B.A. biology, Syracuse University; J.D., University at Buffalo.

Steffanie Rydzik, B.A. social sciences, University at Buffalo.

Tejal Shelat, M.B.B.S., Lady Hardinge Medical College.

Devon Smith-Rankin, B.A. biology, SUNY/Binghamton.

Rachel Wilson, B.A. sociology/global gender studies, University at Buffalo.