

# EEH NEWS

## Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health

School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP)

University at Buffalo, State University of New York (SUNY)

<http://sphhp.buffalo.edu/epidemiology-and-environmental-health>



June 2015

Karen DeGarmo, editor

### *The Chair's Corner*



Dear EEH Colleagues, Students, Alumni and Friends:

We have had an outstanding year this year. It is exciting to reflect on all that has been accomplished. Here are just a few of the highlights. There have been a number of significant developments in the school including the selection of Jean Wactawski-Wende, PhD, as the new dean and the accreditation of the school's public health programs under the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). In the department, we now have a new track in the MPH environmental health program focused on global health and we have new accelerated MPH programs in epidemiology and health services administration that allow students to complete the MPH in approximately one year. Arthur Michalek, PhD, joined us this year and is the director of the new Division of Health Services Policy and Practice. We are also in the process of doing a search for a new faculty member in epidemiology, two in health services administration as well as starting on a search for a new chair of EEH.

The department has been very involved with UB's new initiative to develop cross-school interdisciplinary Communities of Excellence. Of the three that were selected by UB, EEH faculty were instrumental in two, Global Health Equity and Genome, the Environment and the Microbiome.

SPHHP commencement was held on Saturday, May 16 at the UB Center for the Arts. Myron Glick, MD, from Jericho Road Community Health Center, was the commencement speaker. The department had a total of 30 graduates for the academic year: 4 PhD, 10 MS, and 16 MPH conferred this June. Congratulations to our graduates and many thanks to their mentors and committee members!

EEH welcomed two new staff members this year. Karen DeGarmo from the Graduate School of Education joined us in July as graduate program coordinator. Amie Schirching came from the Registrar's office in August to start as

secretary to the chair. Both North campus natives. Welcome!

I want to wish all of you a wonderful summer and looking forward to the 2015-16 academic year!

*Jo Freudenheim, PhD*

UB Distinguished Professor and  
Interim Chair

### *Hello to all*

Perhaps you did not notice with so much going on this past year in EEH but this is my first newsletter. Somehow the October and February newsletters did not get done. But it is back with a new editor. I am trying to include everything from the past year so forgive me if something has been left out. It has been a big change. I came from the North Campus in education to the South Campus and science. I appreciate all your patience with my learning curve and I think this coming year will be a bit smoother. Please let me know if there is something you want to see in future editions of the newsletter. I like to try new things. Stop by anytime to visit or say hello. I like company.

*Karen DeGarmo*

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## Welcome New Faculty and Staff



**Xushen Chen**, MS, started March 2015 as a visiting research scholar. He received his MS in genetics from Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou City, China in 2007 and is currently a doctoral candidate in genetics from Sun Yat-Sen University. His current research interest focuses on the metabolism process of arsenical species and epigenetic modification of DNA as a result of chronic arsenic exposure from environment.

**Emily Chuba**, BA, started October 2014 as a project staff assistant in the Women's Health Research Center.

**Karen DeGarmo**, BS, started July 2014 as Secretary I, graduate program coordinator, a promotion from her previous position as Keyboard Specialist I, department secretary, in the department of Learning and Instruction, Graduate School of Education.



**Xiaodan Mai**, MBBS, PhD, started as a postdoctoral associate in June 2015. She received her PhD in epidemiology from the department in June 2015. Mai received a MBBS in preventive medicine from Southern Medical University, Guangzhou, China. Her major research interests include cancer epidemiology, periodontal disease, and women's health.



**Arthur Michalek**, PhD, joined us October 2014 as the director of the Division of Health Services Policy and Practice (HSPP). Michalek was at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI) for 34 years having first joined as a cancer research scientist and epidemiologist in the Department of Cancer Control and

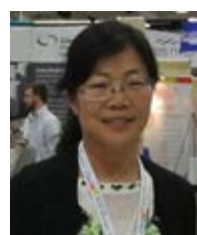
Epidemiology. In 1997, he was appointed dean of the Roswell Park Graduate Division at UB. He has also served as a senior vice president with responsibilities for all aspects of education and training as well as research ethics. Upon his retirement from RPCI in 2010, he led the Health Policy Doctoral Program at D'Youville College. He earned his doctoral degree in epidemiology from UB in 1980.



**Jungwon Min**, PhD, joined the department in April 2015 as a research scientist in the Systems-oriented Global Childhood Obesity Intervention Program. Before joining UB, during 2013-2015 she worked as an associate research fellow in the Korean Institute of Child Care and Education (a research institute that

reports to the Prime Minister of South Korea), where she directed several projects regarding research on political effects on child care and education system and child

developments in South Korea, and the NASA Mission X for child obesity prevention in South Korea project. Min received her PhD in epidemiology from Ewha Womans University, Seoul, South Korea in 2010.

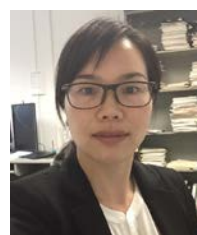


**Yulan Qiu**, MD, PhD joined the department in September 2014 as a visiting research scholar. Qiu is currently an associate professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine, Shanxi Medical University, Shanxi, China. She received her MD from Shanxi Medical University, and her PhD from Fudan University, Shanghai, China. Her research focuses on a relationship between a polymorphism in a DNA damage repair gene and cell-cycle control related gene and chromosome damage in vinyl chloride monomer exposed workers and the influence of vinyl chloride on liver cell cycle and the regulatory mechanism.

**Jane Rotterman**, MS, started October 2014 as a data manager/statistician in the Women's Health Research Center. She received her MS degree in epidemiology from the department in February 2008.



**Amie Schirching**, BFA, started August 2014 as Secretary I, secretary to the chair, a promotion from her previous position as Keyboard Specialist I, degree auditor, from the Office of the Registrar.



**Zhen (Sunny) Shi**, PhD, joined the department in February 2015 as a visiting research scholar. Shi is currently Attending Physician in the department of Gerontology, Xinhua Hospital Affiliated to Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, Shanghai, China. She received her PhD in internal medicine from Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine in 2007. Her research interests include aging, environmental factors and cardiovascular disease.

**Hasha Stevens**, started June 2015 as Research Technician I in the Women's Health Research Center.



**Xiaoyan Yan**, PHD, joined the department in April 2015 as a visiting research scholar. She is currently an associate professor in the Department of Biology, Taiyuan Normal University. Yan received her PhD from Shanxi Agriculture University, Shanxi, China. Her research focuses on the study of molecular mechanism of myocardial Injury induced by fluorosis, the effect of fluoride induced ROS on mitochondria and MAPK cell signal pathway.



**Jinqiu Zhu, PhD**, started January 2015 as a research scientist. Before joining UB, he was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Cell Biology and Pharmacology, Emory University School of Medicine. Zhu received a BS in biotechnology, and MSc in genetics from Sichuan University, Chengdu, China. He received his PhD in environmental toxicology from Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas in 2009. His research focuses on exploring the mechanism for arsenic induced changes in chromatin state and identify specific genomic regions altered by chronic arsenic exposure and associated with malignant transformation.

## Alumni News



**Joel Merriman, MPH**, joined the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps in January 2015 as a lieutenant and is now stationed in Buffalo. He is an investigator with the Food and Drug Administration. Merriman received his MPH in environmental health in June 2012. See his [Alumni profile](#) about his career on the EEH website.

**Sonja Pavlesen, MD, MS**, joined the UBMD Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine Department as a clinical research associate in October 2014.

## EEH Graduate Student Association

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) of the Department of EEH elected new officers for the 2014-2015 academic year: **Ramesh Pandit, MBBS**, president; **Raquel Velazquez, MS**, vice president; **Kan Hong (Christina) Zheng, BS**, secretary; **Joshua Gordon, BA**, treasurer; and **Zuwena Plata, BS**, senator. Raquel Velazquez and Christina Zheng will serve as alternate senators.

## Faculty/Student Presentations

**Jo Freudenheim, PhD**, UB Distinguished Professor, was an invited speaker at the Third Annual Alcohol and Cancer Conference held in Crete, Greece, June 2015. Her talk was entitled “*Alcohol and breast cancer: Risks and mechanisms.*”

**Arthur Michalek, PhD**, presented his talk entitled “*Insights into Authorship and the Peer Review Process*” at the European Association for Cancer Education meeting in Heidelberg, Germany in April 2015.


**Amy Millen, PhD**, presented a poster entitled “*Vitamin D Status and Early Age-Related Macular Degeneration in a Biracial Cohort*” at the 2015 Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) meeting in Denver, CO in May 2015.


**Wudeneh Mulugeta, MD, MPH**, gave an oral presentation entitled “*Longitudinal Changes in Overweight/Obesity and BMI among Refugees in Buffalo*” at the North American Refugee Health Conference in Toronto, Canada on June 6, 2015.


**Heather Ochs-Balcom, PhD**, presented a poster entitled “*No evidence for gene-environment interaction between obesity genetic risk score and energy intake*” at the WHI Investigator’s Meeting in Rockville, MD in May 2015.


**Michelle Sahli, MS**, presented a poster entitled “*Associations between Dietary Pattern and Diabetic Retinopathy in the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study*” at the 2015 Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) meeting in Denver, CO in June 2015.


## Honors and Awards

 **Catherine Callahan, MA**, received the EEH 2015 *Saxon Graham Research Award* for her research proposal entitled “*Telomere Length and Persistent Organic Pollutants.*”


 **Kenyani Davis, MD**, received the 2015 *Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award* from the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

 **Kelly Kamm, PhD**, received the EEH 2014 *Saxon Graham Award* for overall excellence in epidemiology throughout her graduate studies.

 **Xuefeng Ren, MD, PhD**, received the 2015 *UB Exceptional Scholar Award for Young Investigators.*

 **Caila Vaughn, MPH**, received a SPHHP *J. Warren Perry Poster Award* for her work entitled “*Genome-wide association study of a composite sleep disturbance score in the Women’s Health Initiative*” at the 2015 SPHHP J. Warren Perry Poster Day held April 24.

## Robert O’Shea Travel Award

 **Wit Wichaidit, MS**, received a Robert O’Shea Travel award for his two abstract submissions for oral presentation entitled “*Availability of Signal Functions and Quality of Emergency Obstetrics Care for Population in Rural Bangladesh*” and “*Quality of Emergency Newborn Care in Rural Bangladesh, 2013*” to the ASTMH 2014 meeting in New Orleans, LA in November 2014.

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## *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*

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The following students were elected to *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* for the 2014-2015 academic year.

- **Andrea Gentzke**, MS.
- **Joshua Gordon**, BA.
- **David Jacobs**, PharmD.
- **Janine Joseph**, MBA.
- **Xiaodan Mai**, MBBS.
- **Albina Minlikeeva**, MD, MPH.
- **Wit Wichaidit**, MS.

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## *J. Warren Perry Poster Day*

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The 2015 SPHHP J. Warren Perry Poster Day was held April 24. The following EEH students presented their research:

**Catherine Callahan**, MA, "*Early Life Exposure to Air Pollution and Promoter Methylation in Breast Tumors in the Western New York Exposures and Breast Cancer (WEB) Study.*"

**Caila Vaughn**, MPH, "*Genome-wide association study of a composite sleep disturbance score in the Women's Health Initiative.*"

**Allison Soucise**, BA, "*Sleep quality and breast cancer tumor aggressiveness.*"

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## *News and Notes*

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A new division in the department, the Division of Health Services Policy and Practice (HSPP) was created August 2014. While there always has been a focus on health services in the department, the division will provide greater visibility in the school, the university and the Western New York community and provide new impetus to further develop and expand the focus on health services policy and practice.

The MPH concentration in health services administration will now be part of the division and the faculty associated with that MPH program will be part of the new division. Ongoing research and service in the department with a focus on health services policy and practice will also now be part of the division.

**Alexandra Baker**, BS, was nominated and selected to serve as one of the SPHHP Public Health Ambassadors for 2014-2015.

**Jo Freudenheim**, PhD, UB Distinguished Professor, has been elected as the chair of the Molecular Epidemiology Group of the American Association for Cancer Research.

**Amy Millen**, PhD, has been appointed associate chair of EEH starting June 2015.



**Raquel Velazquez**, MS, an EEH doctoral student, is working as a summer fellow with the Radiation Epidemiology Branch of the National Cancer Institute working on a study examining the association between protracted low-dose ionizing radiation and lung cancer mortality among radiologic workers.

**Jean Wactawski-Wende**, PhD, accepted the position interim dean of the School of Public Health and Health Professions in July 2014. After a national search, Wactawski-Wende was appointed dean in March 2015.

**Youfa Wang**, MD, PhD, was elected as the secretary-treasurer of the Pediatric Section of the Obesity Society.

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## *Preventive Medicine Residency Program*

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**Kenyani Davis**, MD, has been named chief resident for Preventive Medicine for 2015-2016.

**Milind Chaudhari**, MBBS, PhD, and **Natdanai (Tee) Punnanithinont**, MD, MPH, will begin their PGY III in the Combined Internal Medicine/Preventive Medicine Residency Program on July 1, 2015. Chaudhari received his MBBS from B.J. Medical College, Pune, India in 2003, and his PhD in exercise science from the University at Buffalo in 2013. Punnanithinont received his MD from Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand in 2010, and his MPH in quantitative methods from Harvard University in 2012.

**Wudeneh Mulugeta**, MD, MPH, and **Aparanjita Kolluru**, MBBS, completed the Preventive Medicine Residency Program on June 30.

## Research News



**Richard Donahue**, PhD, MPH, is PI on a new 6 month, \$21,920 award from the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) entitled "*Feasibility Study to Evaluate Haptoglobin Phenotype and Risk of Coronary Heart Disease and Stroke Among Diabetic Women.*" The overall objective is to examine the association between haptoglobin (Hp) phenotype and CVD risk (incident CHD [MI or revascularization], or stroke) in postmenopausal women with a history of diagnosed treated diabetes comprised of participants in the WHI Observation Study



**Michael LaMonte**, PhD, MPH, is PI on a new 6 month, \$30,918 award from the WHI entitled "*Feasibility Study to Evaluate Gut Microbiome and CVD-related Measures in Older Women.*" Funding will pilot the ability to characterize the gut microbiome by sequencing bacterial composition of fecal samples, and to conduct preliminary analysis on the relationship between the gut microbiome and available indicators of CVD in older women.



**Amy Millen**, PhD, is PI for a new one-year, \$34,972 study funded from UB's Innovative Micro-Programs Accelerating Collaboration in Themes (IMPACT) Program. The project is entitled "*The Neonatal Microbiome Study: A Pilot Study in Meru County, Kenya.*" The purpose of this pilot study is: 1) to determine the acceptability and feasibility of collecting maternal and neonatal stool and maternal breast milk samples for microbiome analyses in a sample of maternal/neonate pairs in Kenya, and 2) to compare the gut and breast milk microbiome composition from samples collected using varying methods. Co-investigators include Pavani Ram, MD, Rachel Hageman Blair, PhD, Michael Buck, PhD, Yijun Sun, PhD, and Joel Montgomery, PhD.



**Kirsten Moysich**, PhD, and Brahm Segal, MD, received a five-year \$3.1 million grant from the National Cancer Institute (1R01CA188900-01A1) entitled "*Novel Immunological Biomarkers in Ovarian Cancer Prognosis.*" The purpose of the study is to study immune responses in women with ovarian cancer and to identify biomarkers that can predict response to treatment.



**Heather Ochs-Balcom**, PhD, received a *Civic Engagement Research Fellowship 2015-16* from the UB 2020 Strategic Strength, Civic Engagement and Public Policy for her research project entitled "*NCAA Student-Athletes and Sickle Cell Trait Screening: Ensuring Best Practices.*"



**Pavani Ram**, MD, is PI on a new award from Save the Children for a project entitled "*Effects of Promoting Handwashing with Soap to Mothers and Other Caregivers in Kenya.*" The study will compare the effects of perinatal handwashing promotion versus standard practices on the handwashing practices of mothers of newborns; adherence to handwashing at particular critical times among mothers of newborns; and the handwashing behavior of other caregivers of newborns and other family members.



**Xuefeng Ren**, MD, PhD, is PI on a new award from the National Cancer Institute for a project entitled "*FRY in Inhibiting EMT and Its Anti-Invasion/Metastasis Effects in Breast Cancer.*" The study will examine the molecular mechanisms of the FRY gene in inhibiting breast cancer progression and invasion/metastasis and explore the diagnostic and therapeutic effects of FRY in breast cancer. Bing Su, PhD, is a co-investigator.



**John Violanti**, PhD, is PI on a new award from the National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health for the project entitled "*Analysis of Three Novel CVD Markers in the BCOPS Study.*" Violanti will perform analyses of samples collected from the BCOPS Study to measure biomarkers known to be associated with cardiovascular disease (CVD).



**Jean Wactawski-Wende**, PhD, is PI on two new awards. The first from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research is entitled "*Oral Microbiome and Periodontitis: A Prospective Study in Postmenopausal Women.*" The study will characterize the oral microbiome in a large existing, well-characterized cohort of postmenopausal women. Co-investigators are Michael LaMonte, PhD, MPH, and Amy Millen, PhD.

The second new award is from Kaiser Permanente/National Cancer Institute and is entitled "*Women's Health Initiative (WHI) Life and Longevity After Cancer (LILAC) Study.*" The study will facilitate research on the etiology and risk factors for cancer incidence, cancer recurrences and survival, with a particular emphasis on the contribution of co-morbidities, lifestyle factors, molecular and genetic factors, and

treatment-related factors that decrease the risk of second and recurrent cancers.



**Youfa Wang**, MD, PhD, and his research group is collaborating with NASA as an official partner in the global Mission X Program, an international health and fitness challenge for children.

The Systems-oriented Global Childhood Obesity Intervention Program [website](#) was implemented in March 2015.

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## *Saxon Graham Lecture*

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Tim Byers, MD, MPH, gave the 2015 Saxon Graham lecture on April 3, 2015.

Byers is the Associate Director for Cancer Prevention and Control of the University of Colorado Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Associate Dean for Public Health Practice at the Colorado School of Public Health.

A former collaborator with Dr. Graham in the 1980's, Byers has made significant contributions to the study of diet in cancer epidemiology. His current research includes epidemiologic and clinical studies of nutrients as protective factors in colon, breast, and lung cancer, studies of cancer treatment decision-making by patients and physicians, studies of cancer genetics, and studies and programs to promote the early detection of lung and colorectal cancer.

His talk was entitled "*Nutrition and Cancer: Personal Reflections on 40 Years of Slow Progress*" and can be accessed on the [EEH website](#).

The annual lecture honors Dr. Saxon Graham, who chaired the department from 1981-1991.

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## *Congratulations to Our Graduates*

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The following students successfully completed all degree requirements for degree conferrals in September 2014, February and June 2015.

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### *PhD Epidemiology*

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**Katharine Amato**, MPH, "*A Unique Tobacco Cessation Service for Cancer Patients at RPCI: Acceptance, Participation and Impact.*" Committee members: Andrew Hyland, PhD (major professor), Gary Giovino, PhD, Heather Ochs-Balcom, PhD, and Maansi Bansal-Travers, PhD. (6/15/15). Katharine will start a postdoctoral position at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

**Joseph Green**, MA, "*Exposure to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Pesticides via Consumption of Great Lakes Sport-caught Fish and Risk of Prostate Cancer and Melanoma.*" Committee members: Matthew Bonner, PhD, MPH (major professor), James Olson, PhD, and Kirsten Moysich, PhD. (6/15/15). Joseph is now a senior analyst at the University of Hawaii.

**Xiaodan Mai**, MBBS, "*Periodontal Disease, the Oral Microbiome, and their Associations with Cancer Risk in Post menopausal Women.*" Committee members: Jean Wactawski-Wende, PhD (major professor), Jo Freudenheim, PhD, Robert Genco, DDS, PhD, and Christopher Andrews, PhD. (6/15/15). Xiaodan started a postdoctoral position in the department in June 2015.

**Anne Weaver**, MS, "*Household Air Quality and Acute Respiratory Infection in Bangladesh.*" Committee members: Pavani Ram, MD (major professor), Lina Mu, MD, PhD, and Jihnhee Yu, PhD. (2/1/15). Anne accepted a postdoctoral position in the department of Environmental Health Science, Indiana University School of Public Health.

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### *MS Epidemiology*

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**Leeann Cornelius**, BS, "*The Association between Total White Blood Cell Count, Its Differential, Serum Albumin and the Risk of Type 2 Diabetes and Prediabetes.*" Committee members: Richard Donahue, PhD, MPH (major professor), Michael LaMonte, PhD, MPH, and Lisa Rafalson, PhD. (9/1/14)

**Tyler Evans**, MD, MPH, "*Vitamin Deficiencies Among Resettled Refugees in Buffalo, NY.*" Committee members: Michael Noe, MD, MPH (major professor) and Carl Li, MD, MPH. (6/15/15). Tyler is a medical officer at Indian Health Service, US Department of Health and Human Services in Fort Washakie and Arapahoe, Wyoming.

**Diana Faustin**, BS, "*The Association between Alcohol Intake and the World Health Organization's Criterea T-Score Groups in Postmenopausal Women.*" Committee members: Jean Wactawski-Wende, PhD (major professor), Michael LaMonte, PhD, MPH, and Jo Freudenheim, PhD. (2/1/15)

**Mark Glasgow**, MPH, "*Early Life Exposures and Breast Cancer Risk Among African-American and European-American Women.*" Committee members: Lina Mu, MD, PhD (major professor), Jo Freudenheim, PhD, and Michael LaMonte, PhD, MPH. (6/15/15). Mark is now a data manager for the Oral Cancer Screening program, Department of Head & Neck/Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

**Amanda Hassinger**, MD, "*Knowledge and Practice Patterns of Pediatric Critical Care Attending Physicians in the Diagnosis and Management of Acute Kidney Injury.*" Committee members: Jo Freudenheim, PhD (major professor), Sudha Garimella, MBBS, and Brian Wrotniak,

PhD. (6/15/15). Amanda continues as Interim PICU Director of Quality, Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo, and assistant professor in the department of Pediatrics, University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

**Janine Joseph**, MBA, "*Sugar Intake, inflammation and depression in breast cancer patients.*" Committee members: Susan McCann, PhD (major professor), Chi-Chen Hong, PhD, and Amy Millen, PhD. (6/15/15)

**Jaime Mund**, BS, "*Validation of CDC BRFSS Sleep Questions to Screen for Sleep Disturbances.*" Committee members: Heather Ochs-Balcom, PhD (major professor), Michael LaMonte, PhD, MPH, and Carla Jungquist, PhD, RN. (9/1/14)

**Marina Oktapodas**, BS, "*The Association between Over-the-counter Analgesic Use and Renal Cell Carcinoma.*" Committee members: Lina Mu, MD, PhD (major professor), Kirsten Moysich, PhD, and James Marshall, PhD. (6/15/15). Marina continues her studies in epidemiology in the doctoral program at the University of Rochester.

**Sonja Pavlesen**, MD, "*Current Vitamin D Status and History of Tooth Loss in Postmenopausal Women.*" Committee members: Amy Millen, PhD (major professor), Jean Wactawski-Wende, PhD, and Michael LaMonte, PhD, MPH. (9/1/14). Sonia accepted a position as a clinical research associate, in the department of Orthopaedics, UBMD Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine.

**Cong Yu**, MA, "*Study of Mitochondrial DNA Copy Number Variation and Lung Cancer Risk in a Case-control Study in Chinese Population.*" Committee members: Lina Mu, MD, PhD (major professor), Jo Freudenheim, PhD, and Xuefeng Ren, MD, PhD. (9/1/14)

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## MPH Epidemiology

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**Bridget Kruszka**, BA, "*Prospective Study on Physical Activity and Hypertension Incidence in Postmenopausal Women.*" Committee members: Michael LaMonte, PhD, MPH (major professor) and Amy Millen, PhD. (2/1/15). Bridget accepted a position as a junior data analyst at the University of Washington Collaborative Health Studies Coordinating Center, in Seattle, WA.

**Jessica Meyers**, pre-pharmacy, "*Metformin and Primary Breast Cancer Prevention: A systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.*" Committee members: Michael LaMonte, PhD, MPH (major professor) and Matthew Bonner, PhD, MPH. (6/15/15). Jessica received her combined PharmD/MPH degree in June 2015.

**Elise Tjaden**, BS, "*Using the Health Belief Model as a Framework for Exploring Barriers to Breastfeeding.*" Committee members: Pavani Ram, MD (major professor) and Heather Lindstrom, PhD. (2/1/15)

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## MPH Environmental Health

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**Mallory Hardick**, MA, "*Massachusetts Avenue Project Mobile Market: An Evaluation of Produce on the Move.*" Committee members: James Olson, PhD (major professor) and Lina Mu, MD, PhD. (2/1/15). Mallory is a nutrition educator with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) at the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

**Suman Sarker**, BA, "*Identifying Determinants of Chlorpyrifos Exposure Among Egyptian Agriculture Workers.*" Committee members: Matthew Bonner, PhD, MPH (major professor) and James Olson, PhD. (9/1/14). Suman is a consultant at Community Plains Care. He accepted a position as human physiology research technician in the department of Exercise and Nutrition Science at UB.

**Alexandra Sullivan**, BA, "*The Massachusetts Avenue Project Growing Green: A Youth Perspective.*" Committee members: James Olson, PhD (major professor) and Matthew Bonner, PhD, MPH. (6/15/15)

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## MPH Health Services Administration

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**Khalil Alshaer**, MD, "*Hepatitis C Screening Quality Improvement Project.*" Committee members: Martin Mahoney, MD, PhD (major professor) and Carl Li, MD, MPH. (9/1/14). Khalil's medical practice is affiliated with the Eastern Niagara Health System.

**Karina Armstrong**, BSc, "*Niagara Region's Smoke-Free Outdoor Spaces Bylaw: An Evaluation Proposal.*" Committee members: Kristina Young, MS (major professor) and Carl Li, MD, MPH. (6/15/15)

**Aparanjita (Devi) Kolluru**, MBBS, "*Cross-sectional Study to Determine Factors Associated with Elevated Blood Lead Levels in Children Residing in Erie County.*" Committee members: Carl Li, MD, MPH (major professor) and Kristina Young, MS. (6/15/15)

**Lyndsey Milcarek**, BS/BA, "*A Community Health Assessment Examining Rural Health Needs in Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, India.*" Committee members: Carl Li, MD, MPH (major professor) and Arthur Goshin, MD, MPH. (2/1/15). Lyndsey started an internship in July 2014 with HealthyWorld Foundation in North Bengal, India assisting in community health projects.

**Tejal Jayant Shelat**, MBBS, "*Patriarchy and Women's Health in India: A Review of the Literature.*" Committee members: Kristina Young, MS (major professor) and Carl Li, MD, MPH. (6/15/15). Tejal is volunteering with the American Cancer Society in Buffalo orchestrating awareness projects.

**Devon Smith-Rankin**, BA, "*Opioid Abuse and Public Health Interventions.*" Committee members: Kristina Young, MS (major professor) and Carl Li, MD, MPH. (6/15/15)

**Alexandra Warner**, BS, “*Evaluation of UB-Safer.*” Committee members: Carl Li, MD, MPH (major professor) and Sherri Darrow, PhD. (9/1/14). Alexandra is doing a fellowship in the Office of Adolescent Health within the US Department of Health and Human Services in Rockville, MD.

**Melanie Washington**, MSW, “*Access to Child and Adolescent Outpatient Mental Health Care: A Comprehensive Study.*” Committee members: Carl Li, MD, MPH (major professor) and Kathleen Kost, PhD, MSSW. (6/15/15). Melanie continues in her doctoral program in social welfare at UB, School of Social Work.

**Danise Wilson**, BSc, “*A Program Intervention to Inform Tenth-Grade Buffalo Public High School Students About the Field of Public Health to Encourage Their Exploration of Related Undergraduate Studies.*” Committee members: Carl Li, MD, MPH (major professor) and Kristina Young, MS. (9/1/14). Danise is a senior program manager in the department of Family Medicine at UB.

**Kaitlin Wisnieski**, BA, “*Assessing Cultural Competency Among Outpatient Clinic Personnel Serving Refugee Populations in Buffalo, NY.*” Committee members: Kristina Young, MS (major professor) and Carl Li, MD, MPH. (6/15/15). Kaitlyn accepted a position as a project associate at New York University, Office of Medical Education.

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## Welcome New EEH Students

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The following students joined EEH last fall. Since we did not have a fall newsletter we are welcoming them now and hope they had a good year.

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### PhD Epidemiology

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**Joshua Gordon**, BA, international relations, Tufts University; pre-medicine, UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

**David Jacobs**, PharmD, University at Buffalo.

**Raquel Velazquez**, BS, interdisciplinary, University of Central Florida; MS, epidemiology, SUNY Albany.

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### MS Epidemiology

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**Kan Hong (Christina) Zheng**, BS, biochemistry, University at Buffalo.

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### MPH Epidemiology

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**Alexandra Baker**, BS, biology, Medaille College.

**Rebecca Hall**, BS, biomedical sciences/health wellness, University at Buffalo.

**Ramesh Pandit**, MBBS, Maharashtra University.

**Zuwena Plata**, BS, biology, Haverford College.

**Kerris Sease**, BA, biology, Fisk University (transferred from CHHB in January 2015).

**Krysten Stoll**, BS, psychology, SUNY Cortland.

**James Brian Szender**, BS, MS, biomedical engineering, Boston University; MD, Creighton University.

**Zhengqi Tan**, MBBS, Fudan University.

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## MPH Health Services Administration

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**Bridget Aliaga**, BS, biology, University at Albany.

**Kelsey Barbour**, BA, interdisciplinary, University at Buffalo.

**Courtney Bauer**, BA, psychology, University at Buffalo.

**Kenyani Davis**, BS, biology, Al-Quds University; MD, Ross University School of Medicine.

**Sarah Dolan**, BS, anthropology, SUNY Binghamton.

**Patrick Gagnon**, BS, psychology, University at Buffalo.

**Genevieve Gibson**, BA, psychology, University at Buffalo.

**Gabriel Hutton**, BA, cognitive science, University at Buffalo.

**Angela Pieprzak**, pre-pharmacy, University at Buffalo.

**Nailah Sinclair**, BA, health and human services, University at Buffalo.

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