Study sheds new light on tobacco control

An international survey of tobacco use in 3 billion individuals, published in the Aug. 18 issue of The Lancet, demonstrates an urgent need for policy change in low- and middle-income countries, according to a UB faculty member who led the research.

“Governments around the world need to start giving economic and regulatory advantages to agricultural products that promote health instead of to products like tobacco that kill people,” says lead author Gary A. Giovino, chair of the Department of Community Health and Health Behavior, School of Public Health and Health Professions. Giovino is an international authority on tobacco use surveys; he previously was chief of epidemiology in the Office on Smoking and Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The survey results, Giovino says, paint a disturbing picture of global tobacco use influenced by powerful and manipulative pro-tobacco forces.

While 100 million lives were lost prematurely due to tobacco use in the past century, the study notes that the World Health Organization estimates that if current trends continue, the
Dean’s Council takes shape

In the spring of 2012, SPHHP created a new Dean’s Community Advisory Council with the mission to promote better understanding and more coordinated activity in the community. In particular, we hope to:

- better inform the Dean’s Office and the school of activities and the needs of various local and regional community groups or agencies
- better inform these regional community groups or agencies of the current and planned activities of the school as related to teaching, research and service relevant to public health and health professions
- foster networking in the community
- promote productive relationships between SPHHP and the community and within the community

Currently, there are 15 groups represented, including the Erie and Niagara county health departments, P2 Collaborative, Chautauqua County Health Network, WNED, Independent Health, Community Health Center of Buffalo, The John R. Oshei Foundation, Community Health Foundation of Central and Western New York, Erie 1 BOCES, Cornell Cooperative Extension, UB Department of Family Medicine, Evergreen Health Services of Western New York, Western New York Independent Living Inc., and the New York State Health Department.

This is a valuable council that relates to each one of our academic programs and engages themes including public health, disability, nutrition, exercise and rehabilitation, and involves groups from across Western New York. Our school needs to be connected with groups that deal with the problems faced by our region, whether they are in urban, suburban or rural areas.

The council organizations listed above constitute a good start toward improving communication with the community, but we expect that this membership will evolve over the years.

Moreover, we don’t think that this council should be the only way the Dean’s Office connects with the community. If you represent a group that would like to have better channels of communication with the school, please don’t hesitate to contact me directly (lk22@buffalo.edu) to talk about this.

Lynn T. Kozlowski

Dean and Professor of Community Health and Health Behavior

Shah delivers commencement address

Nirav R. Shah, New York State’s 15th commissioner of health, delivered the keynote address during SPHHP graduation ceremonies in May 2012.

Shah heads one of the nation’s leading public health agencies with a budget of more than $50 billion, and administers the state’s public health insurance programs, which cover 5 million New Yorkers. The department also regulates hospitals and other health care facilities, conducts research in a premier biomedical laboratory, and supports public health and prevention initiatives.

A native of Buffalo, Shah is board-certified in internal medicine and is an honors graduate of Harvard College and Yale School of Medicine. He was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at UCLA and a National Research Service Award Fellow at New York University. Before becoming commissioner, he was attending physician at Bellevue Hospital Center in Manhattan, associate investigator at the Geisinger Center for Health Research in central Pennsylvania, and assistant professor of medicine in the Section of Value and Comparative Effectiveness at NYU Langone Medical Center.

Shah has been a leading researcher in the use of large-scale clinical laboratories and electronic health records to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of care. He is a nationally recognized thought leader in patient safety and quality, comparative effectiveness, and the methods needed to transition to lower-cost, patient-centered health care for the 21st century.

His vision for New York is a state where every resident has access to affordable health insurance coverage, high quality care and early screening and other services to prevent chronic disease and improve overall health.

Public health traineeships awarded

SPHHP recently was funded for the first time for traineeships, which will support some of its students in public health.

These traineeships, funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will be given to select MPH students in good academic standing who complete an application that includes a description of their professional goals and academic plans for preparing themselves for a career in public health.

This year’s awardees are:

Bruck Adam

Adam is interested in the development of statistical methods to gather, analyze and interpret biological data in the fields of epidemiology and immunology, and in the study of clinical drug trials to reduce the transmission of the HIV/AIDS disease in developing countries.
PhD students from Iran find a home in Buffalo

Imagine studying in a new country, a place, thousands of miles from your home, where the weather, the people, the culture—everything—is different.

That was life last December for Seyedeh Shiva Dibaj, who came to Buffalo from Tehran, the capital of Iran. Dibaj came to Buffalo with her husband so she could study in SPHHP’s biostatistics PhD program. “You can imagine the weather and everything—it was a little different. We didn’t know anybody in Buffalo and there isn’t a large Iranian community at UB so it was a little hard at the beginning,” she recalls. “I asked our department secretary if there were any other Iranian students and she said, ‘Yes, Mojgan,’ and it was like a miracle!”

Mojgan Golzy is also studying in the biostatistics PhD program. But, unlike Dibaj, Golzy has been in the U.S. for 10 years now. She came to Buffalo in December 2002, after earning her PhD in mathematics in Tehran. Golzy came to Buffalo through marriage with an American citizen. Her husband was born in Iran but came to the U.S. when he was 16; they met for the first time in Italy.

In fall 2003, Golzy began teaching at Buffalo State College. “Because my husband was studying at UB, we decided to stay in Buffalo,” Golzy explains, adding that a friend of hers in the math department at UB suggested she get her master’s in biostatistics. “I liked the program, so I decided to continue and finish my PhD. It’s a very good program.”

Golzy and Dibaj have enjoyed their research work in the biostatistics program. In fact, UB’s research with Roswell Park Cancer Institute is one of the reasons Dibaj, whose father passed away from cancer, decided to study at UB. Dibaj is working as part of a research team led by Alan Hutson, chair of the Department of Biostatistics.

“I’m analyzing data for a research study that has been conducted by the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer, called the ‘IASLC Oncology Care Provider Survey.’ It’s basically an online survey that had been conducted in 2012 to assess the knowledge, beliefs and practice patterns about tobacco cessation in IASLC clinical members,” Dibaj explains.

Golzy’s first study was to develop a health metric related to the risk of future high-cost complications in patients with chronic kidney disease. “We used a censored regression model to identify the most significant lab tests in predicting ‘waiting time to hospitalization,’” Golzy explains. “The predicted value of time to hospitalization, using lab test results, can be used as an outcome metric in cost effectiveness analysis of treatments.” It can also be used to identify physicians with the best outcomes, she adds.

Her most recent study involves dynamic modeling and statistical analysis of recurrent hospitalizations for chronic kidney disease patients.

The demands of such studies make it difficult to return home to visit with friends and family. Golzy travels to Iran every few years. For Dibaj, though, the restrictions of her visa prevent her from being able to leave the U.S. and re-enter. “We keep in touch with people through email and Facebook, but [last] summer, when most of the students in our department wanted to go back to their home country, it was very hard,” Dibaj says.

Still, Golzy and Dibaj both said they’ve found a home in Buffalo and the surrounding region. “It’s very quiet, the educational system for kids is great, and it’s a great place to raise a family,” Golzy says. “You always have someplace to go if you are bored here in the summertime.”

“I really enjoy studying at UB,” adds Dibaj. “The faculty, students, everyone is so friendly. When we came here we didn’t know anything about the city, and at that time we didn’t have a car. But little by little, we started making some Iranian friends and realized there was an Iranian community in Western New York and then it got much easier. I think that right now I have feelings for Buffalo. I like it here.”

—David J. Hill
Defying the odds

Caffiero sets inspiring example

The School of Public Health and Health Professions has many supporters. But you likely won’t find a more fervent supporter of the school’s work and mission than Al Caffiero.

“I love UB,” Caffiero, 79, says with a big smile. A frequent contributor who helps fund four scholarships each year for students to do an externship, Caffiero funded the school’s White Coat ceremony, enabling the school to conduct a ceremony held by several other medical professions. He’s raised more than $100,000 in student scholarships.

Caffiero’s involvement with SPHHP goes back more than three decades. Caffiero taught physical therapy courses at UB, and he was a partner in New York State’s largest physical therapy practice, with 125 employees, including 85 physical therapists.

“That all changed for me when I was diagnosed 17 years ago,” Caffiero says. He was diagnosed with a form of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), more commonly known as Lou Gherig’s Disease. “Nobody knows what type mine is,” Caffiero adds, noting there are many different types of ALS.

What they all seem to have in common is a grim outlook upon diagnosis. Most die from respiratory failure within two to 10 years after the first signs and symptoms, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Caffiero has certainly beaten the odds. He continued to practice as a physical therapist and lecturer for a time after his diagnosis, but has since had to retire from both completely. However, Caffiero sometimes serves as a guest patient in SPHHP classes. It’s important, he says, that students be exposed to different types of patients.

Most days, Caffiero can talk in short sentences, making it easier to communicate. Occasionally, though, he struggles. In such cases, Caffiero uses iPad software that allows him to type what he wants to say; the computer program speaks what he typed.

Pride in SPHHP runs deep for Caffiero, whose practice hired more than 100 UB students. “I could tell right away they were going to be good. We always taught our students well,” he says.

While he’s happy to encourage students in their studies, he’s just as eager to share his experience with ALS patients, especially younger patients, who email him from around the world. “The younger you are, the worse off you are with ALS,” he says. “When I get email from young people, I get upset, because they don’t have as much time and they have kids, a good job. I want to encourage people, because you never know. I encourage them to keep going.”

—David J. Hill
Scott White is looking forward to returning to the classroom and the biomechanics laboratory. White served nearly six years as the associate dean for faculty affairs in the School of Public Health and Health Professions, but recently stepped down from the position because he says he missed interacting with students in the class and in the lab.

“That is the primary reason I made my decision,” he said. “My responsibilities as associate dean, for the most part, took me away from something I missed very much.”

White returned to his faculty position in the Department of Exercise and Nutrition Science in fall 2012.

Appointed associate dean in January of 2006, White says he’s grateful for being presented with the leadership opportunity. “The position was new when I was named to it,” said White. “The job was patterned after the vice provost for faculty affairs, [the executive officer responsible to the provost for all matters pertaining to UB’s faculty.]”

Today, White’s former role is called the associate dean for faculty affairs and diversity, and he says the position is one that supports diversity in SPHHP and professional growth of the faculty.

As a returning member of that faculty, White says he will have more time to pursue other areas of interest.

“My area of expertise is biomechanics,” White said. “I enjoy trying to make that area of study understandable and useful to students.”

White describes biomechanics as the study of the effects and control of forces which act on and are produced in living bodies. He says good examples of the discipline are using measurement systems in biomechanics for analyzing walking patterns. For a few years, he studied the gait of kids with cerebral palsy, research that allows physicians to make better informed decisions when considering surgical intervention.

In addition to teaching, White is also looking forward to resuming his research agenda. He is working on deterministic modeling, a paradigm that helps biomechanical researchers explain and predict how muscle forces relate to the challenges of movement.

“Along with my doctoral students, we’re examining the mechanisms of anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries,” he said.

The ACL, one of four major ligaments in the human knee, provides stability to the joint. ACL tears are common orthopedic injuries in sports that involve jumping or sudden stops. White says a better understanding of the mechanisms responsible for the injury will help develop training programs to protect the ligament’s integrity and prevent injuries.

“The ACL may be buried deep in the joint, but it is protected by muscles that cross the joint,” he said. “So deterministic models to predict muscle forces is a way of trying to find out what the muscles are doing or what they may not be doing at the time of an ACL injury.”

White’s research could benefit athletes in sports like basketball, soccer and football. His work, meantime, as associate dean, benefited many people in SPHHP.

“He has always cared so much for our faculty, and continues to do so,” said Alan Hutson, chair of the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics.

Hutson says from his viewpoint, White’s role as associate dean for faculty affairs is among the most challenging and time-consuming such positions at UB.

“Aside from the purely administrative duties related to the position, Scott found time to oversee the Perry Lecture Series.”

Hutson says White arranged for speakers and found venues for guests taking part in the lecture series honoring the late J. Warren Perry, founding dean of SPHHP.

For now, White says he’s looking forward to once again working with students, as he did when he arrived at UB as an assistant professor in 1989.

“I learned a lot and enjoyed working with the faculty,” he said. “But I’m also looking forward to once again devoting more of my time to students.”

—Bert Gambini
L. Saxon Graham, a longtime SPHHP professor, was considered among the most important cancer epidemiologists for his groundbreaking studies examining the link between diet and cancer beginning in the 1950s. He died at age 90 in May 2012.

**Remembering Dr. Graham**

**Noted epidemiologist explored link between diet and cancer**

There is a great deal of evidence now that diet affects cancer risk. That connection wasn’t obvious, though, in the 1950s, when Buffalo-born researcher L. Saxon Graham began breaking new ground in cancer epidemiology. Over the next half-century, Graham contributed some of the most important research on diet and cancer.

Graham was among the first American researchers to examine this link. He died at his home in Orchard Park on May 19, 2012, after a brief illness. He was 90.

“He was a major figure in epidemiology,” says Jo Freudenheim, UB Distinguished Professor and chair of the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine. “He started doing work at a time when people said, ‘Oh, you can’t do that.’ His contributions showed that it was possible to measure diet, and he made people move forward and do research that needed to be done,” adds Freudenheim, whom Graham mentored when she came to UB as a post-doctoral fellow in 1987.

James Marshall, another former colleague of Graham’s, adds: “When Saxon began his research at Roswell Park...”
When Saxon began his research at Roswell Park, in the early 1950s, few suspected that diet was related to cancer. Today, almost everyone understands that it is.”
—James Marshall

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Cancer Institute in the early 1950s, few suspected that diet was related to cancer. Today, almost everyone understands that it is.”

“They also understand that research on diet requires the study of large population samples. Modern interest in diet has been heavily influenced by Saxon’s research. He was not schooled in dietary research; he invented efficient survey methods for the study of diet in large population samples,” says Marshall, senior vice president for cancer prevention and population sciences at Roswell Park and a research professor in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine.

After receiving his bachelor’s degrees in history and English from Amherst College in Massachusetts in 1943, Graham served in the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps from 1944-46. He received both his master’s (1949) and PhD (1951) in sociology from Yale University.

Following teaching stints, Graham returned to Buffalo in 1956 to work at Roswell Park, where he was promoted to principal scientist in 1965. He joined UB as a professional lecturer and full professor the following year.

In a video interview produced by the UB Center for the Arts shortly before his passing, Graham recalled his days as a research-er. “I was home one day in my library and I was wondering about the causes of cancer. And I wondered, ‘Why in heaven’s name hasn’t somebody studied diet?’”

Graham made an impact early on in his career at Roswell Park, where he developed a questionnaire the hospital distributed to patients to learn more about their diet and smoking habits. “I could see how it could be improved and it was lengthened considerably as a result. And of course, what you might suspect we found, was that those who used chewing tobacco had the higher risk of oral cancer. At that point in the scientific community, these people couldn’t see how epidemiology could come up with any answers,” he said.

A member of the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine for more than three decades, Graham served as chair from 1981 to 1991, when he retired. He received an honorary doctorate in science from UB in 1996. In addition, Graham was a founding director, and an honorary fellow, of the American College of Epidemiology, and was past president of the Society for Epidemiologic Research.

As significant as Graham was as a researcher, his legacy lives on through the many students whose academic lives he impacted. “He gave me all kinds of opportunities as a post-doc and then as a junior faculty member,” Freudenheim says. “He did that with lots of people. I know my experience wasn’t unique.”

She described Graham as a “very warm, loving person,” but noted his seriousness toward scholarly activities. “He was also very critical. If he noticed a mistake or flaw in your dissertation, he expected you to fix it and not make that mistake again.”

Marshall recalls when he was completing his dissertation at UCLA and was invited to come to Buffalo for an interview with Graham. “When my mentor at UCLA found out that I had been offered the SUNY job, he told me he was finished writing recommendation letters for me. He said there was no way I would do better than to have a position with Saxon Graham.”

In all, Graham authored nearly 200 scholarly articles, and contributed influential reviews and editorials to some of the world’s most renowned medical journals. He named his students or junior colleagues as first authors on more than half of these articles.

“One would like to think that his papers are his legacy, but I don’t think they’re half as important as the students,” Graham said in the interview, noting that he mentored more than two-dozen PhD candidates.

“I’m so happy about that. It’s just a lovely thing to look back on.”
—David J. Hill

Watch an interview in which Dr. Graham reflects on his career and accomplishments:

“One would like to think that his papers are his legacy, but I don’t think they’re half as important as the students.”
—L. Saxon Graham
National program gets girls moving

For many young girls in Western New York, a dedication to long distance running is building more than their endurance. Girls on the Run, a curriculum based character building program offered at many local elementary and middle schools, is designed to educate its participants about the health benefits of running while at the same time building the confidence and self-esteem of the girls who take part.

The national program came to Buffalo three years ago. Initially based in just three area schools with a total of 43 participants, Girls on the Run has since expanded to 56 schools throughout Western New York with more than 650 girls taking part this season.

“It is so rewarding to see the program goals realized in these young girls’ lives by using running as a medium for teaching so much more,” says Jennifer Temple, an assistant professor in SPHHP’s Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences. “The program is delivering great results for the girls who have been a part of it.”

Girls on the Run is a 12-week after school program for girls ages 8 to 13. It meets twice a week for 90 minutes each day. The curriculum covers the areas of personal identity, cooperation and community involvement. Temple says the program starts simply with introductory games and exercises, but builds to a conclusion with a 5k run.

Meghan Cavanaugh, one of the program’s local directors and a senior counselor at UB’s School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, says Girls on the Run is designed for a particular age group for specific reasons.

“This program reaches girls at a critical time when they are often becoming sedentary, dropping out of organized activities and are exposed to challenges such as issues with body image, bullying, self-confidence, being an individual and learning to stand up for themselves,” she says.

“We teach the girls how to deal with all of these issues in a fun, interactive way that gets them moving and ultimately trains them to complete a 5k race.”

Girls on the Run is a national non-profit organization with more than 200 local councils across the U.S. and Canada. Cavanaugh says she and co-director Katie Joyce both felt Girls on the Run would help satisfy what they saw as a shortage of such after school programs for young girls. They worked cooperatively to bring the program to Western New York.

Temple, who wrote one of the original letters supporting the efforts of Cavanaugh and Joyce, participates as a buddy runner.

“We have also set up Girls on the Run as a practicum in our department,” says Temple. “Our UB students are able to get credit for serving as volunteer coaches and role models.”

There are two sessions each year, at the beginning of the school year and again in January for a spring program. The $150 program cost is covered by some health insurance companies. Registration and information are available at gotbuffalo.org.

“This is an enormously popular program,” Temple says. “Many schools have long waiting lists.”

Temple says she is thrilled to be a part of Girls on the Run. In fact, one of the program’s newest participants is her own daughter.

—Bert Gambini

[Continued from Page 2]

Lamya Hamad
Hamad is interested in global health and infectious diseases, health awareness and media work (utilizing the media in spreading effective health-related messages to encourage preventive medicine and lifestyle changes), and in reinventing the role of the pharmacist in public health initiatives.

Mara Pusater
Pusater is interested in improving the health of populations by improving the environment around them. She plans on pursuing a master’s in urban planning to build on her MPH degree to help improve health through the built environment.

Koh delivers Perry lecture

Howard K. Koh, assistant secretary for health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, discussed the Affordable Care Act in the 2012 J. Warren Perry Lecture held Nov. 16 in Kapoor Hall, South Campus.

In his talk titled “Promoting Public Health in the Era of Health Reform,” Koh spoke about the need for prevention in health care and the Affordable Care Act’s focus on prevention through benefits and services, as well as various HHS initiatives and programs that focus on prevention, including tobacco, vaccines and hepatitis.

The award and lecture series honor the late J. Warren Perry, a prominent national figure in his field who founded the School of Health Related Professions, which preceded SPHHP. Perry served as dean from 1966 until 1977.
Sarah Reilly got an up-close look at health issues in a poor neighborhood in Buffalo, one where access to fresh food is limited. Sarah, who holds one of the School of Public Health and Health Professions’ endowed scholarships, is finishing her master of public health degree with a concentration in community health and health behavior. She canvassed households as part of a project—a partnership between UB, a large hospital on the edge of the neighborhood, and community stakeholders—to address the community’s health needs. It was exactly what Sarah wanted to do with her degree: collaborate with community members who want to find their own way forward. The best reason to support UB is what students like Sarah will do in the future.

The best public universities have the strongest private support.

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number of preventable, premature deaths in this century will be far greater.

“In the absence of effective actions, about 1 billion people worldwide will die prematurely in the next century from tobacco use,” says Giovino, “and most of those deaths, and the health care and economic costs that come with them, will be borne by lower- and middle-income countries.”

Published in a special Lancet issue on respiratory medicine, the findings are from the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS). GATS was created by major national and international health agencies to improve the ability of countries to design, implement and evaluate anti-tobacco efforts.

“This is the largest tobacco use prevalence study ever reported in the scientific literature,” says co-author Samira Asma, chief of global tobacco control, CDC.

The study focused on 14 low- and middle-income GATS countries (Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland, Russia, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay and Vietnam), making comparisons with the United States and the United Kingdom.

The nationally representative surveys were conducted in GATS countries from 2008-10, via face-to-face interviews with 248,452 respondents. Data on another 188,895 respondents from the U.S. and U.K. also were included.

The research reveals:

• 49 percent of men and 11 percent of women in the GATS countries used tobacco (smoked, smokeless or both).
• Although women’s tobacco-use rates remain low, women are beginning to smoke as early as men, around age 17 instead of in their 20s.
• While tobacco is consumed in various ways, from chewing tobacco and snuff to waterpipes and hand-rolled bidis, most tobacco users (64 percent) smoked manufactured cigarettes.
• China had the highest number of tobacco users at 301 million people (including 52.9 percent of men) followed by India, with 274 million people (47.9 percent of men).
• Quit ratios were highest in the U.S. and the U.K., as well as in Brazil and Uruguay, where tobacco-control activities are strongest; they were lowest in China, India, Russia and Egypt.

According to Giovino, the magnitude of global tobacco use revealed in the current study reflects powerful pro-tobacco forces that often overpower the less well-funded tobacco control strategies.

“Our data reflect industry efforts to promote tobacco use,” he says. “These include marketing and mass media campaigns by companies that make smoking seem glamorous, especially for women. The industry’s marketing efforts also equate tobacco use with Western themes, such as freedom and gender equality.”

The high consumption of manufactured cigarettes also is a direct result of sophisticated technological manipulation, he says. “These products are technologically designed to mask harshness, provide particular taste sensations and increase nicotine delivery,” the paper states.

That works not just to keep current smokers smoking, but also to make it more palatable for nonsmokers who are experimenting. “These characteristics are designed to ease the transition from experimentation to regular use, especially among young people,” Giovino says.

What is needed, he says, is the deliberate allocation of more resources to fully implement tobacco-control strategies, such as the MPOWER strategies of the World Health Organization.

These strategies monitor tobacco use, protect nonsmokers, offer help with quitting, warn people about the dangers of tobacco use via large, graphic warning labels on tobacco packages and hard-hitting mass media campaigns, enforce advertising restrictions, and raise taxes on tobacco products. The research was funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Brazilian and Indian governments.

—Ellen Goldbaum

Study garnered media attention around the world

The week of Aug. 20, 2012, was a busy one for Gary Giovino.

Chair of SPHHP’s Department of Community Health and Behavior, Giovino is lead author on the largest-ever international study on tobacco use.

The study, published in the premier British medical journal The Lancet on Aug. 18, revealed that the use of tobacco in developing countries is booming, thanks to the influence of powerful pro-tobacco forces. Results demonstrate an urgent need for policy change in low- and middle-income countries, says Giovino, an international authority on tobacco use who worked with UB’s Office of University Communications to publicize the report.

Not surprisingly, the media—both from the U.S. and around the world—rushed to pick up the story.

The New York Times, The Economist.com, CNN.com, Reuters, TIME and NPR were among the hundreds of news outlets worldwide reporting on the study.

News coverage also was produced by CBS Evening News, Fox News, NBC News, Agence France Press, Voice of America and Futurity.

Stories appeared on television stations from New York to Los Angeles, and in news outlets in India, Canada, the Philippines, the Middle East, Asia, Europe and Africa. Locally, articles appeared in the Buffalo News and Business First.

Giovino also was interviewed on PBS Newshour.

Giovino points out that in their news stories, many reporters cited both the Lancet publication and a recent decision by the Australian High Court banning company logos on cigarette packages and requiring instead that packages bear startling pictures of cancer victims.

That decision, as well as the Lancet publication and its dissemination through international media outlets, has given new life to the urgent need for international tobacco-control policies, he says.
Family is the front line in long-term care. So the School of Public Health and Health Professions and the Erie County Caregiver Coalition developed Powerful Tools for Caregivers, a training program for people providing informal care for the frail elderly or anyone with a disabling condition.

Their is the hard job. Our job is to help.

To see other ways the School of Public Health and Health Professions and UB reach the community, visit www.buffalo.edu/reachingothers.
As funding sources dwindle and staffing levels are stretched thinner, public health agencies across the nation are looking at a new model of providing care. It’s called cross-jurisdictional sharing, and it can be as simple as sharing a few services among various governments, or as involved as the merger or consolidation of several public health agencies.

This new model is being facilitated locally by the Lake Plains Community Care Network, one of 35 rural health networks across New York State. SPHHP has been a key partner in the endeavor. “The university seems to be a logical partner for Lake Plains as we try to help the health departments move forward under an environment of consistently constraining restraints,” says Kenneth L. Oakley, Lake Plains CEO and a research assistant professor both in SPHHP and the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

A native of Olean, Oakley now lives in Batavia, where he moved 13 years ago to take over Lake Plains. He has a PhD in management, an MBA, and a master’s degree in counseling. Oakley’s career trajectory has taken him from addiction counseling to health care management to hospital administration to his current role with Lake Plains. He is also the founding CEO of the Western New York Rural-Area Health Education Center, another organization that works closely with UB.

“We’re constantly being challenged to do more with less,” Oakley says of public health agencies. That’s prompting public health providers across New York and elsewhere to look at integrating services among various jurisdictions to eliminate redundancies and thereby seek to maintain critical public health services for their communities.

In addition to a need for shared services, there’s also the issue of staffing. “We simply do not have enough resources to meet demand, bottom line,” says Oakley.

“And when we’re in an environment where we’re trying to stay ahead of the curve and be proactive in prevention and wellness, those are the first programs that go under budget cuts. The critical, core, fundamental preventive wellness programs aren’t going to be there, and they need to be,” he adds.

Strategic partners such as SPHHP give Oakley reason to believe positive developments are on the horizon. “We’re looking to a promising future. There have been significant strides already, but this is just the beginning,” he says. “The partnerships that can now go forward are going to be even better, more numerous, more robust and, ultimately, more beneficial to Western New York.”

—David J. Hill