

SPM NEWS

Department of Social & Preventive Medicine

School of Public Health and Health Professions
State University of New York at Buffalo
<http://phhp.buffalo.edu/spm>

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Marcia Wopperer, editor

The Director's Corner

With participation of the Education Committee, we are continuing to evaluate the current academic curriculum and determine areas of improvement. We are continuing to add new courses in data measurement and data management, and to modify and enhance course requirements. We will inform you of the changes when they are approved by the faculty. These changes will ensure that our graduate students will acquire the appropriate level of academic competence in epidemiology and public health, and in the application of these concepts in the conduct of independent epidemiologic research and in the practice of public health.

We have explored several new recruitment strategies, including postings in epidemiology journals, and as a result have had some success in diversifying student recruitment. For the upcoming recruiting cycle, we will pursue other more aggressive recruitment strategies in a more timely fashion in order to strengthen our academic program. We invite your feedback on other strategies to further strengthen recruitment.

Recently, the Graduate School has changed several policies regarding graduate degree requirements, for example, policies regarding the outside reader and submission of the thesis and dissertation. The department is developing its policies in response to the changes in Graduate School policies. We will keep you informed of the changes as they are implemented. We also continue to streamline and update our departmental policies as they apply to graduate student academic progress and graduate degree requirements. This will ensure that students will achieve their academic goals while in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine.

Everyone should be sure to personally offer your congratulations to Dr. Richard Donahue on his appointment to the position of Associate Dean for Research in the School of Public Health and Health Professions. Dr. Donahue brings a plethora of experience to this position. We offer Dr. Donahue our best wishes as he embarks on this next exciting challenge in his academic career. Congratulations.

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



American Association for Cancer Research

The 96th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) will be held April 16-20 in Anaheim, CA. The following SPM students/graduates/fellows will present:

Mathew Bonner, Ph.D. ('03), *"Gluthathione-S-Transferase M1 (GSTM1), Total Suspended Particulate Exposure and Breast Cancer"*

Daikwon Han, Ph.D., *"Geographic Differences in Breast Cancer Cases and Controls by Genetic and Biological Characteristics: Explaining Clustering of Breast Cancer at Place of Birth"*

Jing Nie, Ph.D., *"Environmental Exposure to Traffic Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and Risk of Breast Cancer"*

Mary Platek, M.S., *"Methylenetetrahydrofolate Reductase (MTHFR) and Risk of Breast Cancer: The Western New York Exposures and Breast Cancer Study (WEB Study)"*

Honors and Awards



Julie Baker, M.S, R.N. was awarded the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professionals Scholarship for Excellence, 2004. Awards are made annually to six outstanding students nationwide in allied health programs who are achieving academic excellence and have significant potential to assume future leadership roles in allied health.



Ranjan Chanda, M.B.B.S., Andrea Hughes, Gabriela Neagoe, M.D., Haiping Qiao, M.D., Laura Stevens, Brian Wrotniak and Margaret Zambon have been nominated for inclusion in "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges for Fall 2004.



Bethany Gilbert, J.D. was awarded a Lester Milbrath Interdisciplinary Fellowship from the University of Buffalo's Environment and Society Institute. Bethany is conducting research on the interaction between science and policymaking in relation to mercury air/water pollution.



Karol Rejman , M.S., F.N.P. was named Nurse Practitioner of the Year for 2004 by the Nurse Practitioner Association of Western New York.

Faculty Research

K. Michael Cummings, Ph.D. was awarded a three-year \$2,052,273 grant from NCI entitled "*International Tobacco Control Policy Survey*". The goal of this project is to assemble an international cohort to evaluate nationally implemented tobacco control policies in the U.S., U.K., Canada and Australia. Andrew Hyland, Ph.D. is co-principal investigator. Dr. Cummings also received a five-year \$7,121,449 grant from NCI entitled "*Building the Evidence Base for Tobacco Control Policies*" to improve understanding of how tobacco control policies can be applied to reduce the harms caused by tobacco.

John Violanti, Ph.D. received a NIOSH-NIJ collaborative supplemental grant to the Police Health Study entitled "*Sleep Deprivation, Extended Work Hours, Shift Work and Health Among Police Officers.*" The three-year, \$750,000 grant will examine relationships between extended work hours, shift work, and health morbidity among Buffalo, NY police officers. The study will also examine relationships between work hours and psychological stress and depression. Co-investigators include Drs. Joan Dorn, Jean Wactawski-Wende and Maurizio Trevisan.

Faculty/Student Presentations

John Violanti, Ph.D. presented a paper entitled "*Police Suicide and PTSD*" at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA in November 2004.

Names in the News

Susan Bruce, Luke Peppone and Chunqiao Tian successfully passed the January 2005 preliminary exam.

Sherri Darrow, Ph.D. ('90) has accepted a position as director of Wellness Education Services at the University at Buffalo.

Isabelle Chughtai-Harvey, M.D. has been accepted to the University at Buffalo Family Medicine Residency Program for June 2005.

Richard Donahue, Ph.D. has been appointed Associate Dean for Research in the School of Public Health and Health Professions.

Amy Millen, Ph.D. has joined the Department of SPM as a postdoctoral fellow. Amy received her doctorate in nutritional sciences from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2002. She was appointed a Cancer Research Training Award Fellow at NCI from 2002-2004.

Paola Muti, M.D., has accepted a position as professor and chair of the Department of Cancer Epidemiology at the Italian National Cancer Institute effective March 1. Dr. Muti joined the Department of SPM in 1994 as a Research Assistant Professor.

Holger Schünemann, M.D., Ph.D. has accepted a position as chief, Division of Clinical Epidemiology at the National Cancer Institute in Rome, Italy. He is soon to be appointed chair, Department of Clinical Research Development and Information Translation at the Institute.

Kristina Young's text *Health Care USA, Understanding its Organization and Delivery*, co-authored by Harry Sultz, Dean Emeritus of the School of Health Related Professions, is now in its 5th edition. First published in 1997, the text is now recognized as the nation's leading introductory textbook on the health care delivery system.

February 2005 Graduates

The following students successfully completed all degree requirements established by the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine and the University at Buffalo for February 2005 degree conferral. Congratulations!

M.P.H.

Melissa Kosinski "*Increasing Adolescent Male Utilization of Family Planning Clinics.*" Mentors include Drs. Dennis Bertram (major) and Carl Li. Melissa is a bioterrorism resource coordinator at the Cattaraugus County Health Department.

Wendy Radlich, "*Combating Cardiovascular Disease in Erie County, New York.*" Mentors include Drs. Dennis Bertram (major) and Carl Li.

M.S. in Epidemiology

Michael Aronica, M.D., "*Cross-Sectional Survey of Primary Care Physician Attitudes, Knowledge, and Beliefs Regarding the Influenza Vaccine.*" Mentors include Drs. Charles Hershey (major), Laurene Tumiel-Berhalter and Holger Schünemann. Michael is an assistant professor of Clinical and Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the University at Buffalo.

Luke Peppone, "*Cigarette Smoking and Colorectal Cancer: A Case-Control Study.*" Mentors include Drs. Andrew Hyland (major), Kirsten Moysich and Mary Reid. Luke is continuing his studies in the Ph.D. Program in Epidemiology and Community Health at the Department of SPM.

Haiping Qiao, M.D., *“Can Probiotics Prevent and Treat Antibiotic-Associated Diarrhea: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.”* Mentors include Drs. Linda Duffy (major), Jean Wactawski-Wende, Marie Riepenhoff-Talty and Carl Li. Haiping is a research associate at The Women’s and Children’s Health Research Foundation, Children’s Hospital of Buffalo.

Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Community Health

Cindy Tworek, M.S., M.P.H., *“Enforcement of Tobacco Possession, Use, and Purchase Laws in Relation to Smoking Behavior and Attitudes Toward Smoking Among Youth.”* Mentors include Drs. Gary Giovino (major), K. Michael Cummings and Andrew Hyland. Cindy is an affiliate member in Epidemiology and Prevention, Health Research, Inc. at RPCI.

New Course Offerings for Fall 2005

SPM 519 Introduction to Measurement in Epidemiologic Research

The course will cover basic principles and methods of measurement and their application in epidemiologic research. These include development and use of different types of instruments and scales for measuring biological characteristics and behavioral and social constructs, questionnaire construction and validation, sampling, data collection methods, and fundamental principles underlying data analysis and interpretation. Students will gain practical experience developing a questionnaire relevant to an epidemiologic issue, role-playing interview techniques in class, and resolving issues related to other data collection methods, sampling, and preparing data for analysis. The course will be offered on Tuesdays from 3:00-5:20 p.m., taught by William Scheider, Ph.D.

SPM 635 Designing and Evaluating Advanced Medical Management Systems

Public health students will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to design advanced medical management systems. The course will provide students with in-depth business analysis of medical management programs; understanding of operational competence necessary to design high performing medical management systems; understanding of the contracting process underlying medical management programs; skills in negotiation of medical management contracts; and understanding how consumer-directed health care and pay-for-performance can be integrated into medical management programs. The course will be offered on Wednesdays from 12:00-2:20 p.m., taught by Dennis Horrigan, M.S., vice president of Managed Care Development at Independent Health.