



# SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey



## Dean's Bulletin Board

683 Hoes Lane West · P.O. Box 9 · Piscataway, NJ 08854 · (732) 235-9700 · <http://sph.umdj.edu> · August 2006

### Grant Supports Minority Worker Training

The UMDNJ-School of Public Health Office of Public Health Practice, through the Foundation of UMDNJ, received a \$100,000 grant from The Prudential Foundation to renew Prudential's support of the Newark Brownfields Minority Worker Training Program, marking the second year for this funding. The Newark Brownfields Minority Worker Training Program trains underemployed or unemployed minority men and women from the Newark area in the skills required to secure union or private contractor jobs in the environmental clean-up and construction industries. Since the program's inception in 2000, more than 150 Newark area residents have completed the 17-week pro-

gram of intensive, high-caliber instruction in the handling and removal of hazardous materials, construction trades and life skills training in job-related math, reading, writing, computer literacy and personal finance.

"The Brownfields Minority Worker Training Program presents a great opportunity for the people of Newark, and The Prudential Foundation is proud to continue its support for another year," said Gabriella Morris, president of The Prudential Foundation. "This program does more than provide valuable job training and life skills for individuals. It prepares them for jobs in an industry that works to improve the very environment where the citizens of

Newark live and work."

According to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, more than 450 known or suspected brownfields sites exist in Newark.

Each year, the Newark Brownfields Minority Worker Training Program receives more than 150 applicants for the 30 spots available in the program. More than 80 percent of the program's graduates go on to secure jobs with unions or private contractors.



### UMDNJ Pandemic Influenza Task Force Members Attend RWJUH Exercise

Two members of the UMDNJ Pandemic Influenza Task Force, UMDNJ New Jersey Center for Public Health Preparedness Director Dr. Glenn Paulson and Research Assistant Denison Scott, attended a full-scale surge capacity preparedness exercise at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH), June 19, 2006. MPH student Yewah Jung also participated in the session.

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services provided funding for preparedness exercises to five New Jersey

hospitals, including RWJUH in New Brunswick. This funding was specifically designated to test the hospitals' surge capacity and evacuation plans for pandemic influenza, including both a table top and a full scale exercise.

The full scale exercise at RWJUH began at 9:00 am and continued for most of the day. In addition to the regular hospital staff, approximately 20 observers/evaluators and 50-60 volunteers served as "victims." The exercise tested the ability of the hospital to effectively triage, treat

and house patients during an influenza pandemic. Also evaluated were emergency room techniques, a temporary morgue, and security.

Overall, the observers felt the event was well planned and executed. Task Force members were impressed with how well the exercise was organized and with the rapid ability of the emergency department staff to adapt throughout the course of the day. An immediate de-briefing was held in the EMS offices.

### New On-Line Learning Module

*From Evidence to Practice* (<http://ebph.org/overview.chmis>) is a self-paced, web-based course that teaches the evidence-based public health decision making process by plunging learners into a realistic situation. Learners are asked to understand and employ the evidence-based framework to research and develop an intervention strategy that addresses disparities in birth outcomes in a local

community. Learners make a series of choices about finding data to accurately describe the problem, evaluate interventions based on evidence and applicability to the community and defend their choices. The course outcome—securing funding for interventions chosen—depends on sound evidence-based decision making.

As learners work through their assigned tasks in the course, feedback alerts them to how well they have understood the material presented. Learners can print out a certificate of course completion. A variety of CE credits are available. This program was developed by the New York State Department of Health, Professional Development Program, Rockefeller College, University at Albany.

**OUR MISSION:** "The UMDNJ-School of Public Health is a statewide, multi-institutional, multi-campus scholarly community dedicated to improving the health of diverse populations in New Jersey and elsewhere through collaborative teaching, research, and service."

### Nation's First Collaborative School of Public Health





WELCOME TO ALL ENTERING STUDENTS, FALL 2006, FROM NEWARK, PISCATAWAY/NEW BRUNSWICK, AND STRATFORD/CAMDEN CAMPUSES!

Photo credit: Wayne Dietherick, UMDNJ-School of Public Health



### Essay Contest

Share your thoughts about tomorrow's environmental and human health and win today!

The Toward Tomorrow Project of the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production is sponsoring an essay contest, *Looking Toward Tomorrow: Helping to Shape a Safer, Cleaner, Healthier Future*. Open to college through post-graduate students and young professionals, entrants are encouraged to share their outlook on the status of

health and the environment and how society could better embrace the intrinsic connections between ecosystem health and human health.

The Toward Tomorrow Project brings together scholars and leaders from diverse fields to outline a common agenda of the relationship between the environment and human health in the coming decades.

Through the contest, insight from young visionaries will help fuel the innovation

necessary to shape a safer, cleaner and healthier future.

Essays should be between 3,000 and 8,000 words and submitted by Monday, September 24, 2006. Four \$500 prizes will be awarded; essays will also be considered for placement in future Toward Tomorrow publications. For more information, please contact [TowardTomorrow@uml.edu](mailto:TowardTomorrow@uml.edu).

### Public Health Seminar Series

September 13, 2006: Facing Facts: Sex and American Teens; Nora Gelperin, MEd, Director of Training and Education, Network for Family Life Education. For more information, please visit <http://ophp.umdnj.edu/CET/PHSSIndex.htm>

## Alumni/ Alumnae UPDATES

*(Editor's Note: Information regarding alumni and alumnae who are SPH faculty members will be noted as part of the "Faculty News" section of this publication.)*

**Laura Jeanne Eaton, MD, MPH '96**, is now a postdoctoral research fellow and clinical instructor at the Department of Family and Community Medicine and The Institute for Health Policy Studies, both at the University of California, San Francisco.

**Lauren Arnold, MPH '01, PhD '05**, and husband Bijal Parikh welcomed Brandon Douglass Parikh, pictured right, into the world on Sunday, June 25. He was born at St. Peter's University Hospital at 9:39 pm, weighing in at 7lbs, 5oz and measuring 20-3/4 inches. Congratulations to Lauren and Bijal, and welcome, Brandon!



Photo credit: Lauren Arnold

**Steven Spayd, MPH '04**, and current SPH doctoral candidate in environmental health, pictured left with one of his fans, Lilly, was recently featured in Ilene Dube's cover story written for TIMEOFF, a supplement to a group of 14 community newspapers serving central New Jersey and Bucks and Wayne Counties, PA (also available online at [http://www.zwire.com/site/news.asp?brd=1091&nav\\_sec=50011](http://www.zwire.com/site/news.asp?brd=1091&nav_sec=50011)). "Pop Goes the Kernel" was the feature title of the very in-depth article regarding "Farmer Steve's" growing of organic popcorn, with the article including everything from the top ten foods most contaminated by persistent toxic chemicals to the benefit of Certified Organic Farms removing pesticides out of the hydrologic cycle, resulting in improved streams, soil and groundwater. And all of this is in addition to Steve's day job as a hydrogeologist for the Department of Environmental Protection and his continuing doctoral work at SPH! Visit <http://www.farmersteve.com>.



Photo credit: David Morrison



WELCOME TO ALL ENTERING STUDENTS, FALL 2006, FROM NEWARK, PISCATAWAY/NEW BRUNSWICK, AND STRATFORD/CAMDEN CAMPUSES!



Photo credit: Adam Levinson, UMDNJ-School of Public Health

### Summer Food Drive Continues on Piscataway/New Brunswick Campus

Please donate non-perishable goods (canned fruit and vegetables, pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, peanut butter) as SPH continues to host a drive for the Highland Park Food Pantry and MCFOODS; the blue container is located on the 1st floor at the entrance to the elevators.

### IEHD's Project EXPORT Hosts Cancer Forum

Project EXPORT hosted a community forum on Saturday, June 3, 2006 at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Jersey City. The purpose of the forum was to educate the Hudson County community on the incidence and mortality of cancer in

minority communities and to provide resources for screening and cancer-related services. Diane Brown, PhD, executive director for the UMDNJ-SPH Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities, provided detailed information on cancer

health disparities. Representatives from the Hudson County Cancer Coalition provided screening and support information. Survivor accounts were provided as a motivational tool to encourage participants to engage in cancer screening.

### SPH Faculty and Staff Presentations at World Conference on Tobacco OR Health

The following SPH faculty and staff presented at the 13th World Conference on Tobacco OR Health: Building capacity for a tobacco-free world, July 12-15, 2006 in Washington, DC.

#### Thursday, July 13 - Oral Sessions

Manipulating the Smoker: Additives, Flavors and the Senses; *Are Menthol Cigarettes More Addictive?* Jonathan Foulds, PhD, Kunal K. Gandhi, MBBS, MPH '05, Jill Williams, MD, Michael Steinberg, MD, MPH '93

Tobacco Product Marketing: From The World Wide Web to Urban Neighborhoods; *Tobacco brand-specific websites: Features and Implications.* M. Jane Lewis, DrPH, Olivia Wackowski, MPH '03

#### Thursday, July 13 - Poster Sessions

Use of Outcome Indicators for Planning and Evaluating National, State and Provincial Tobacco Control Programs. Natasha Jamison, MPH, Todd Rogers, PhD, Cristine D. Delnevo, PhD, MPH '93, Shawn O'Conner, MA, Gabrielle B. Starr, MA, Sheila E. Porter, MPA

Tobacco industry direct mail: A content analysis. M. Jane Lewis, DrPH, Olivia Wackowski, MPH '03

Evolving brand loyalty programs: A look at the "The Camel Casino." M. Jane Lewis, DrPH, Olivia Wackowski, MPH '03

#### Friday, July 14 - Poster Sessions

HANDS OF HOPE, Nationwide Collaborative Art Project. Nancy Speelman, CSW, CADC, CMS

Implementing Youth Tobacco Cessation Programs in Schools. Nancy Speelman, CSW, CADC, CMS, Jonathan Foulds, PhD

Using Peer Counselors to Address Tobacco Among Mental Health Consumers. Martha H. Dwyer, MA, LCADC, CTTS, Jill M. Williams, MD, Marie D. Verna

Behavioral Therapy Development for Smokers with Schizophrenia. Douglas Ziedonis, MD, MPH, Jill Williams, MD, Mia Zimmermann, MPH '03, Jonathan Krejci, PhD, Marc Steinberg, PhD, Jonathan Foulds, PhD, Nancy Violette, LCSW, CADC, Barnabie Agatep '05, Leon Sawh, Jackie Gaffney

Smoking among women with psychiatric disorders: Results from US population-based surveys. Mary Hrywna, MPH, Cristine D. Delnevo, PhD, MPH '93, Jill Williams, MD

Cigar, marijuana and blunt use among US adolescents: Are we accurately estimating the prevalence of cigar smoking among youth? Cristine D. Delnevo, PhD, MPH '93, Mary Hrywna, MPH

Intervening in new immigrant Latino communities in the Northeastern US to reduce tobacco use. Roena Rabelo Vega, MA

Preparing and Certifying Tobacco Dependence Treatment Specialists. Nancy Speelman, CSW, CADC, CMS, Jonathan Foulds, PhD

Challenges and proposed solutions for a common minimal data set for tobacco treatment services. Michael Burke, EdD, Jonathan Foulds, PhD, Linda Bauld, BA, PhD, Thomas J. Payne, PhD

#### Saturday, July 15 - Oral Sessions

Models for Tobacco Treatment from Around the World; *Models for Tobacco Treatment from around the World.* Jonathan Foulds, PhD

Swedish Snus: Panacea or Pandora's Box? *Is Snus a Model for Harm Reduction: Might the Swedish Experience Transfer to Other Countries?* Jonathan Foulds, PhD

The World Conference on Tobacco OR Health offered the opportunity for tobacco control researchers, advocates, officials from national, state and local health departments, and representatives from legislative and regulatory branches of governments worldwide to come together and focus globally on the tobacco epidemic. Additionally, 220 scholars and fellows, all from low- and middle-income countries, were invited to be guests at the conference to learn how they can change the course of the tobacco-related disease back home. The conference was hosted by the American Cancer Society.

## Awards - Research - Faculty News

Congratulations to the following individuals for their special achievements. If you have additional good news, please contact Diane Borowsky by email at [caplandf@umdnj.edu](mailto:caplandf@umdnj.edu) by the 15th of the month. **SPH faculty members' names appear in bold print.** Footnotes indicate SPH adjunct faculty members and SPH faculty members who hold primary faculty appointments at collaborating institutions.

### Appointments and Promotions

**Denise C. Fyffe, PhD**, assistant professor, Health Education and Behavioral Science, based in the SPH Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities.

**Robert M. Goodman<sup>1</sup>, PhD**, professor, Environmental and Occupational Health; Dr. Goodman's primary appointments with Rutgers University are executive dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources, executive director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, and dean of Cook College.

**Kaifeng Lu<sup>5</sup>, PhD**, adjunct assistant professor, Biostatistics; employed by Merck Research Laboratories.

**Andrew Pleasant<sup>1</sup>, PhD**, assistant professor, Health Education and Behavioral Science; Dr. Pleasant's primary appointment with Rutgers University is assistant professor, Department of Human Ecology, Cook College.

### Grants

**Cristine Delnevo<sup>2</sup>, PhD, MPH** (Principal Investigator), **Mary Hrywna, MPH** (Co-Investigator), and **Shou-en Lu, PhD** (Statistician), received \$77,750 from the National Cancer Institute for Year 1 of a 2-year grant entitled *Improving Surveillance and Monitoring of Cigars*. The project will run July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2008, for a grant total of \$155,500.

**Jonathan Foulds, PhD, MAppSci**, received a \$15,129 subcontract from the Montefiore Medical Center for his project entitled *Strategies to Help Audit ER Patients Quit Smoking*. The contract ran from August 1, 2005 to May 31, 2006.

**Vicki Freedman, PhD**, received an additional \$35,969 from the Urban Institute, funded by the US Department of Health and Human Service's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, for her project entitled *Improving Survey Measures of Elderly Disability*. The project runs from June 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006, for a grant total of \$57,804.

**David Rich<sup>2</sup>, ScD** (Principal Investigator), **Kitaw Demissie, MD, MPH** (Co-Investigator), and **Shou-en Lu, PhD** (Co-Investigator), received a \$20,000 grant from the Foundation of UMDNJ's Annual Grants Program for a project entitled *Ambient Air Pollution and the Risk of Fetal Growth Restriction*. The project will run from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007.

**Marcia Sass, ScD** (Principal Investigator), and **Neal Richard Boyd, EdD, MSPH** (Co-Principal Investigator), received a \$20,000 grant from the Foundation of UMDNJ's Annual Grants Program for a project entitled *Consumers/Patients, Infor-*

*mation Technology and Improved Health Outcomes for Patients with Pre-Diabetes and Diabetes*. The project will run from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007.

**Weichung Shih, PhD**, received \$25,668 from the National Institutes of Health through Rutgers University for his project entitled *Inhibition of Carcinogenesis by Tea and Tea Constituents*. The project runs September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006.

### Publications

**Diane Brown, PhD**, was a contributing author with Dr. Verna M. Keith in the anthology entitled *Free at Last? Black America in the Twenty-First Century*. Edited by Juan Battle, Michael Bennett and Anthony J. Lemelle, Jr. Transaction Publishers, 2006. The essay written by Dr. Brown and Dr. Keith was titled *Clear and Present Dangers: Health Disparities in the African American Community*.

Escarce J, Jain A, **Rogowski J**. Hospital Competition, Managed Care and Mortality After Hospitalization for Medical Conditions: Evidence from Three States. Working Paper Series, Working Paper #12335, National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc., June 2006.

**Freedman VA**, Schoeni RF, Martin LG, Cornman JC. Chronic Conditions and the Decline in Late-Life Disability. University of Michigan Population Research Center TRENDS Working Paper, No. 06-5, July 2006.

Kapur K, **Rogowski J**. Love or Money? Health Insurance and Retirement Among Married Couples. Working Paper Series, Working Paper #12273, National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc., May 2006.

**Rogowski J, Freedman VA, Schoeni RF**. Neighborhoods and the health of the elderly: challenges in using national surveys. Report prepared for the Behavioral and Social Research Program, National Institute on Aging, May 2006. Sovak MA, Lutzker S, Zheng L, Guensch L, Joyce M, **Wu Y**, Aisner J. Rational Drug Sequencing of Paclitaxel, Gemcitabine And Carboplatin In Patients With Untreated Stage IV And Select Stage IIIB Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer. *Lung Cancer* 2006;53(2):177-181.

**Steinberg MB<sup>2,3</sup>, Alvarez MS, Delnevo CD<sup>2</sup>, Kaufman I, Cantor JC<sup>4</sup>**. Disparity of Physicians' Utilization of Tobacco Treatment Services. *Am J Health Behavior* 2006;30(4):375-386.

### Presentations

**Harris DA<sup>2</sup>**. Public Health, NJ Association for Biomedical Research Summer Fellowship Program for High School Students, Eagleton Insti-

tute, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. July 19, 2006.

**Paul S<sup>2,5</sup>**. The Role of the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners. New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners Orientation Course, New Brunswick, NJ. July 22, 2006.

### Professional Activities

**Cristine Delnevo<sup>2</sup>, PhD, MPH '93**, was invited to serve as the Host Workgroup chair of the Tobacco Surveillance Epidemiology Evaluation Network (TSEEN), sponsored by the National Cancer Institute.

**Mary Hrywna, MPH**, has been elected to the American Public Health Association's Governing Council for the Public Health Education and Health Promotion (PHEHP) section.

**Sindy Paul<sup>2,5</sup>, MD, MPH '93, FACPM**, is serving as a faculty member for two audio, web-based CME programs, including Rapid HIV Testing and HIV in Pregnancy. Both programs can be accessed at

<http://www.academycme.org/rdh/index.html>.

Also, Dr. Paul was re-elected president of the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners.

**Lynn Waishwell, PhD**, participated in the 2006 Health Literacy Summer Institute to learn a spectrum of plain language skills for creating print communications appropriate for low-literacy audiences, Portland, ME. June 18-21, 2006. The Institute, sponsored by the Maine Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Network Health Literacy Center, University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, Biddeford, Maine, is an intensive summer program designed for non-profits, government agencies, educational institutions, and health systems. For more information, visit

<http://www.healthliteracyinstitute.net/summerinstitute.html>.


<sup>1</sup> Rutgers University-Cook College

<sup>2</sup> SPH Alumna/Alumnus

<sup>3</sup> UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

<sup>4</sup> Rutgers University-Bloustein School

<sup>5</sup> Adjunct Faculty



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### NJPHA Annual Meeting -- Save the Date

The New Jersey Public Health Association Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2006, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Topic and location to be announced.