

# Dean's Bulletin Board

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## Dr. Grau Inducted into Master Educators' Guild

Lois Grau, PhD, RN, was one of 13 UMDNJ educators inducted into the Stuart D. Cook M.D. Master Educators Guild at the 23rd Annual University Day held Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey in New Brunswick.

Dr. Grau is associate professor and chair, Department of Health Systems and Policy, co-director of the dual MPH/MBA program between UMDNJ and the School of Management at Rutgers University, and an associate member of the Center for Health & Aging Research at Rutgers.

An invaluable instructor in the SPH, Dr. Grau has taught the core course in Health Systems and Policy for many years as well as other courses, including the required course in Health Policy and a new course, International Applications in Public Health. In this course, Dr. Grau works with students for an entire year, preparing them for the educational experience in the fall, guiding their development of public health interventions, and then mentoring them in the Dominican Republic where they have the opportunity to learn first hand about global health needs. This course and the powerful experience that is generated has received strong praise from both student and faculty participants.

Dr. Grau is an excellent teacher and mentor for students in the School of



L-R: UMDNJ President William F. Owen, Jr., Dr. Lois Grau, UMDNJ Board of Trustees Chair Robert J. Del Tufo, Esq. (Photo credit: Courtesy of UMDNJ Dept. of Government & Public Affairs / a.j.sundstromPHOTOGRAPHY)

Public Health and has shown great dedication to enhancing their education.

She joins the following UMDNJ-School of Public Health faculty who have previously been inducted into this prestigious Guild:

2006 - Kitaw Demissie, MD, PhD  
Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology;

2005 - George G. Rhoads, MD, MPH  
Professor and Acting Chair, Department of Epidemiology; Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Piscataway/New Brunswick Campus;

2004 - Pamela Ohman Strickland, PhD  
Associate Professor, Department of Biostatistics;

2003 - Bernadette M. West, PhD  
Associate Professor, Department of Health Systems and Policy  
Assistant Dean, Stratford/Camden Campus and Community Health;

2002 - Marian Passannante, PhD  
Associate Professor, Department of Quantitative Methods; and

2001 - Mark G. Robson, PhD, MPH  
Professor, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health.



## 135th Annual American Public Health Association (APHA) Meeting and Exposition

The APHA Annual Meeting theme "Politics, Policy and Public Health" will explore the critical interactions between the political process and public health policy process, as tools to ensure the public's health. For more info, please visit

<http://www.apha.org/meetings/>.

**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



UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY OF NEW JERSEY

RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

NJIT New Jersey's Science & Technology University



## 2007 Annual Meeting of the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH)

The 2007 Annual Meeting is quickly approaching! The meeting is in Washington, DC from November 2-6 in conjunction with the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Exposition (November 3-7). A majority of

the ASPH events take place at the Hyatt Regency Washington, DC on Capitol Hill. For more information about the meeting, including a draft schedule of events and agendas, please go to <http://www.asph.org>.

## V.O.I.C.E.S. - at Work and at Play

The SPH Volunteer Opportunities in Community Engaged Service (V.O.I.C.E.S.) organization is pictured in two of their most recent gatherings -- a regular planning meeting and at a recent softball game where \$280 was raised for the Dominican Republic Health Outreach Project. Word was that it was a great game with a very tight score!!!

Also, recipes are still being accepted for the organization's "Healthy Helpings" cookbook project. Send your recipe(s) to Kristen at [macalukr@umdnj.edu](mailto:macalukr@umdnj.edu).

Visit the V.O.I.C.E.S. website at <http://sph.umdnj.edu/voices>.



## Public Health Seminar Series - Fall 2007 - The Leadership Series

Monday, October 22  
Communication Issues for Public Health Professionals

Presenter: Andrew Pleasant, PhD, Rutgers University.

Wednesday, November 7  
Emergencies and Surges - Taking a Preparedness Perspective

Presenter: George DiFerdinando, Jr., MD, MPH, UMDNJ-SPH.

Tuesday, November 20

**The Digital World and Public Health**

Presenter: Andrew Pleasant, PhD, Rutgers University.

Wednesday, December 12

**Public Health Tomorrow: Leadership in the 21st Century**

Presenter: Kristine Gebbie, DrPH, RN, Columbia University.

All seminars are scheduled from 10:30am - 12:00noon at the UMDNJ-School of Public Health, 683 Hoes Lane West,

Piscataway, NJ. These seminars are provided through the New York/New Jersey Public Health Training Center.

Each seminar is approved for 1.5 Continuing Education Credits for CHES, CE, and Nursing LE.

Seminars are free to attend but you must register at <http://ophp.umdnj.edu/> by first clicking on "Public Health Seminar Series" then on "Schedule and Free Registration". Contact Carl Donaldson for additional information at [donaldcj@umdnj.edu](mailto:donaldcj@umdnj.edu) or (732) 235-9451.

Alumni/  
Alumnae

UPDATES

Lauren D. Arnold, PhD '05, MPH '01, recently began a two-year post-doctoral position in cancer epidemiology at Washington University in St. Louis/Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center, where she is working with Dr. Graham Colditz, former Principal Investigator (1999-2006) of the ongoing Nurses' Health Study based at Brigham and Women's Hospital, a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School.

Sarika Arora, MPH '07, is working for the New York based biotech consulting company, Analytica International, a subsidiary of Accentia Biopharmaceuticals, which focuses on global health outcomes and pricing and market access. Ms. Arora began work there in July as an intern and in September was offered a permanent analyst position with a focus on health outcomes. Her

current projects are related specifically to heart disease, cancer and mental disorders. She also is involved with abstract and poster development for conferences such as AMCP, AAO, and ISPOR, and meeting with national and international clients. Her next projects will relate to pricing and market access. She hopes to use this experience as a segue into outcomes research.

Krysta B. Shutske, MPH '04, CHES, has begun coursework this fall for her PhD at the University of Washington (UW) through a Top Scholar Research Assistant (RA) Award. The UW Graduate School provides the UW Institute for Public Health Genetics with one Top Scholar RA Award per year to attract the most competitive incoming candidate. She will be working under the mentorship of Dr. Wylie Burke at the UW Center for Genomics and Healthcare Equality. Previously, she was a program consultant for the Early Hearing Loss Detection, Diagnosis and Intervention Program at the Washington State Department of Health, Genetic Services Section.

We welcome professional and/or personal "alum" news. Please contact Ms. Alix Garzero, MPH '04, CHES, [garzeral@umdnj.edu](mailto:garzeral@umdnj.edu) or 732-235-4635.



## UMDNJ One of 16 US Institutions Selected for ITREOH Program

The Fogarty International Center (FIC) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), in collaboration with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), NIH, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has developed the International Training and Research Program In Environmental and Occupational Health (ITREOH) in order to train foreign health scientists, clinicians, epidemiologists, toxicologists, engineers, industrial hygienists, chemists, and allied health workers from developing countries and emerging democracies in both general environmental health and occupational health.

### Thai Fogarty ITREOH Center



Under the direction of PI Mark Robson, PhD, MPH, professor of Environmental and Occupational Health and professor of Entomology; Co-PI Junfeng Zhang, PhD, professor and acting

chair of Environmental and Occupational Health; and Surasak Taneepanichsakul, MD, Dean of the College of Public Health Science, Chulalongkorn University (CU) in Bangkok, Thailand, the Thai Fogarty ITREOH Center will provide training and research opportunities in a partnership between the CU College of Public Health Sciences in Thailand, the UMDNJ-School of Public Health, and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (RU) New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) in the United States.

The major theme of this ITREOH program is the consequences of pesticide use and control technologies. This will provide a platform for advancing the public health capacity in Thailand as well as develop new research collaborations for Thai and US health scientists.

Training and research objectives will be accomplished by in-country short- and long-term training opportunities as well as opportunities in the US for graduate degrees, visiting scholars, and short term training at Rutgers and UMDNJ as well as CDC, NIEHS, Wake Forest University, and two New Jersey State Agencies.

Funding for the program will include FIC funds as well as funds from NJAES at Rutgers, the UMDNJ-School of Public Health,

Jubilee Scholarships from the Thai Government, and three short term ORISE fellowships from CDC. The grant is for five years for \$706,250.

The initial project meeting and the first ITREOH sponsored workshop was held this month in Bangkok (see photos). The theme for the first of four workshops in Year One is Environmental Epidemiology and Exposure Assessment.

Other US institutions and collaborating countries in the ITREOH program are:

University of Iowa, Center for International Rural and Environmental Health (Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Romania);

The University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston, SW Center for Occupational Health (Venezuela, Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica);

University of Illinois at Chicago Great Lakes, Center for Occupational Environmental Safety and Health (Ukraine, Belarus, Russia);

University of California, Los Angeles, Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (Mexico);

University of Michigan School of Public Health, Department of Environmental Health Sciences (Southern Africa);

Michigan State University, Institute of International Health (Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia);

University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health (India, Bangladesh);

Yale University, School of Medicine (China);

California Department of Health Services, Environmental Health Investigations Branch (China);

Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Division of Environmental and Occupational Medicine (Brazil, Chile, Mexico);

Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health (Chile, Peru, Mexico);

Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Sciences (Bangladesh);

University of Washington, Occupational and Environmental Medicine (Vietnam, Thailand);

University of California, Davis, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (Uruguay, Argentina); and

University of Alabama at Birmingham (Pakistan).



Pictured above at the first of four workshops are some of the faculty and organizers of the Thai Fogarty program: Dr. Lerchai Charentanyarak, Khon Kaen University; SPH representatives Dr. David Rich, Dr. Dan Wartenberg; Dr. Narongsakdi Aungkasuvapala, Director General, Department of Health, Thailand Ministry of Public Health; Ms. Theechat Boonyakarnkul, Director of Sanitation and Health Impact Assessment Division; Thai Fogarty Center Director Dr. Mark Robson; Dr. Surasak Taneepanichsakul, Dean, Chulalongkorn University College of Public Health Sciences; Dr. Robert Chapman, Chulalongkorn University; Ms. Uraivan Inmoung, Lecturer, Khon Kaen University; SPH's Dr. Jim Zhang.



Pictured are some of the faculty and participants of the Environmental Epidemiology and Health Impact Assessment Workshop, the first of four Thai Fogarty Workshops to be held this academic year, held in early October in Bangkok, Thailand.

# Awards - Research - Faculty News

Congratulations to the following individuals for their special achievements. If you have additional good news, please contact Vanessa Jago by email at [jagovj@umdnj.edu](mailto:jagovj@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. Note: Any reference below to *doi* (Digital Object Identifier System) is used for identifying content objects and where to find them on the Internet.

## APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

**Cande Ananth**<sup>1</sup>, PhD, MPH, MS, professor, Department of Epidemiology.

Jose A. Cruz, mental health clinician, Tobacco Dependence Program.

**Kitaw Demissie**, MD, PhD, MPH, awarded tenure, Department of Epidemiology.

**Mel L. Kantor**<sup>2,8</sup>, DDS, MPH '99, PhD, professor, Department of Epidemiology.

**Michael B. Steinberg**<sup>1,8</sup>, MD, MPH '93, associate professor, Department of Health Education and Behavioral Science.

**Pauline (Polly) Thomas**<sup>3</sup>, MD, associate professor, Department of Quantitative Methods.

**Yujun Wu**<sup>4</sup>, PhD, adjunct assistant professor, Department of Biostatistics.

## GRANTS

**Laura Hemminger**<sup>8</sup>, MPH '96, CHES (Principal Investigator), **Audrey Gotsch**, DrPH, CHES (Co-Principal Investigator), **Lynn Waishwell**, PhD, CHES (Co-Principal Investigator), **David August**, MD (Scientist), **Michael Gallo**<sup>1</sup>, PhD (Scientist), **Howard Kipen**<sup>1</sup>, MD, MPH (Scientist), **George Rhoads**, MD, MPH (Scientist), **Mark Robson**<sup>5,8</sup>, PhD, MPH '95, MS (Scientist), **Daniel Wartenberg**<sup>1</sup>, PhD (Scientist), **Clifford Weisel**<sup>1</sup>, PhD, MS (Scientist), received a \$293,938 grant from the National Center for Research Resources for Year 5 of a 5 Year project entitled "Health Observances and Public Education (HOPE) Partnership". The project began on September 30, 2003 and will run until August 31, 2008 for a grand total of \$1,568,414.

**Pamela Ohman-Strickland**, PhD (Principal Investigator), **David Rich**<sup>8</sup>, ScD, MPH '99 (Co-Principal investigator), **Junfeng Zhang**, PhD, MS (Investigator), **Leonard Bielory**, MD (Investigator), received a \$20,000 grant from the Foundation of UMDNJ's Annual Grants Program for their project entitled "Relation Between Airborne Pollen Concentrations and Daily Cardiovascular Hospital Admissions". The project began on July 1, 2007 and will run until June 30, 2008.

**Mark Robson**<sup>5,8</sup>, PhD, MPH '95, MS, received \$141,250 from the John E. Fogarty International Center for Year 1 of a 5 Year grant entitled "Thai Fogarty International Environmental and Occupational Health Center". The project began on May 1, 2007 and will run until January 21, 2012 for a grand total of \$706,250.

**Jeannette Rogowski**, PhD (Principal Investigator), **Vicki Freedman**, PhD (Investigator), received \$393,405 for Year 5 of a 5 Year grant from the National Institute on Aging entitled "Neighborhoods and the Health of Elderly Americans". The project began on September 30, 2003 and will run until August 31, 2008 for a grand total of \$1,836,580.

**Marcia Sass**, ScD, received \$25,400 from the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical School for her project entitled "Emergency Response and Crisis Management". The project began on October 1, 2006 and will run until

March 31, 2008.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Abatemarco D**<sup>4</sup>, **Steinberg MB**<sup>1,8</sup>, **Delnevo CD**<sup>8</sup>. Knowledge, attitudes and practices of tobacco dependence treatment by nurse midwives. *Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health* 2007; 52(5): 451-57.

**Bandera EV**<sup>1</sup>, **Kushi LH**, **Moore DF**, **Gifkins DM**, **McCullough ML**. Consumption of animal foods and endometrial cancer risk: a systematic literature review and meta-analysis. *Cancer Causes Control*;doi:10.1007/s10552-007-9038-0.

**Bandera EV**<sup>1</sup>, **Kushi LH**, **Moore DF**, **Gifkins DM**, **McCullough ML**. Dietary lipids and endometrial cancer risk: the current epidemiologic evidence. *Cancer Causes Control* 2007;18:687-703.

**Cantor JC**<sup>6</sup>, **Monheit AC**, **Brownlee S**, **Schneider C**. The Adequacy of Household Survey Data for Evaluating the Non-Group Health Insurance Market. *Health Serv Res* 2007;42(4):1739-57.

**McCullough ML**, **Bandera EV**<sup>1</sup>, **Patel R**, **Patel AV**, **Gansler T**, **Kushi LH**, **Thun M**, **Calle EE**. A prospective study of fruits, vegetables and risk of endometrial cancer. *Am J Epidemiol* 2007 166(8):902-911;doi:10.1093/aje/kwm156.

**Rich DQ**<sup>8</sup>, **Gaziano JM**, **Kurth T**. Geographic patterns in overall and specific cardiovascular disease incidence in apparently healthy U.S. men. *Stroke* 2007;38:2221-27.

**Steinberg MB**<sup>1,8</sup>, **Foulds J**. Rimonabant for treating tobacco dependence. *Vascular Health and Risk Management* 2007;3(3):307-11.

**West B**, **Gandhi S**, **Goobic-Palermo D**. Defining Abuse: A Study of the Perceptions of People with Disabilities Regarding Abuse Directed at People with Disabilities. *Disabilities Studies Quarterly* 2007;27(4). [http://www.dsqsds.org/\\_articles\\_html/2007/fall/dsq\\_v27\\_04\\_2007\\_fall\\_fs\\_03\\_west.htm](http://www.dsqsds.org/_articles_html/2007/fall/dsq_v27_04_2007_fall_fs_03_west.htm).

## PRESENTATIONS

**Fagan JK**. Breast Cancer in an Urban Population: Importance of Age and Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Diagnosis. Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar, sponsored by the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School Department of Radiology. October 1, 2007.

**Freedman VA**. Demography of Aging: Recent and Expected Trends in Active Life Expectancy and Functional Status in Late Life. Webcast tutorial for the Fifth Annual Conference of the National Academies Keck Futures Initiative, The Future of Human Healthspan: Demography, Evolution, Medicine and Bioengineering, Irvine CA. September 24, 2007.

**Najem GR**<sup>3</sup>, **Ngatchou Wantong E**. Youth Homicide Racial Disparities: Environmental Risk Factors. International Conference on Environmental Epidemiology & Exposure of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE)/International Society of Exposure Analysis (SEA) Scientific Meeting, Mexico City, Mexico. September 5-9, 2007.

**Rich DQ**<sup>8</sup>, **Freudenberger R**, **Ohman Strickland P**, **Cho Y**, **Kipen H**<sup>1</sup>. Acute changes in right

heart pressures and ambient fine particle concentrations. Poster, discussion, presentation. International Society of Environmental Epidemiology Annual Conference, Mexico City, Mexico. September 8, 2007.

**Rich DQ**<sup>8</sup>, **Dockery DW**, **Mittleman MA**. Ambient air pollution and the risk of paroxysmal atrial fibrillation episodes, in dual-chamber pacemaker patients. Poster presentation. International Society of Environmental Epidemiology Annual Conference, Mexico City, Mexico. September 6, 2007.


**Rich DQ**<sup>8</sup>, **Demissie K**, **Lu SE**, **Kamat L**<sup>7</sup>, **Rhoads GG**. Ambient particulate air pollution and the risk of fetal growth restriction. Oral presentation. International Society of Environmental Epidemiology Annual Conference, Mexico City, Mexico. September 8, 2007.

**Robson MG**<sup>5,8</sup> (Editor), **Toscano WA** (Editor). Risk Assessment for Environmental Health. Washington, DC: The Association of Schools of Public Health, 2007.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**George T. DiFerdinando, Jr.**<sup>4</sup>, MD, MPH, adjunct professor, epidemiology, was invited keynote speaker ("Lessons from US Anthrax Exposures for Hospital Preparedness") at a conference entitled "Hospital Preparedness for All Forms of Bioterrorism" at the Assaf Harofeh Medical Center, Zrifin, Israel. Sponsored by the Israel Ministry of Health, the conference brought together over 250 physicians and nurses involved in emergency response from all Israeli hospitals. While in Israel, Dr. DiFerdinando also consulted with faculty at the Hadasah School of Public Health on public health curriculum development, as well as with members of the Ministry team that is preparing Israel for potential pandemic influenza. September 6, 2007.

- <sup>1</sup> UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
- <sup>2</sup> UMDNJ-New Jersey Dental School
- <sup>3</sup> UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School
- <sup>4</sup> Adjunct Faculty
- <sup>5</sup> Rutgers University-Cook College
- <sup>6</sup> Rutgers University-Bloustein School
- <sup>7</sup> SPH Research Assistant
- <sup>8</sup> SPH Alumna/Alumnus



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