



Dean's Bulletin Board

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Dr. Brown Selected for Prestigious Fulbright Fellowship

Diane R. Brown, PhD, executive director of the Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-School of Public Health, has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to Jamaica for 2008- 09.

Dr. Brown is one of approximately 1,100 American faculty and professionals who will travel to some 150 countries during the 2009 year under the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program. In January, she will begin a research project on cultural influences on health, provide guest lectures, and assist the University of Technology in curriculum development in public health. She will also explore international exchange opportunities for UMDNJ faculty and students.

"I am honored to be a recipient of such a prestigious award," said Brown. "I am excited about the opportunity to teach abroad and to undertake research on how inequities in health conditions that we see here in the United States are impacted by global public health issues."

While Fulbright awards are given to individual scholars, the grant is valuable to the recipient's home campus as well providing an opportunity for international exposure. The Council for International Exchange Scholars has noted that Fulbright scholars internationalize curricula, inspire students to study abroad, draw international students, attract visiting scholars encourage networking and publications, pursue collaborative research grants and establish exchange partnerships with institutions worldwide.

Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievements as well as leadership in their



fields. Dr. Brown joins a distinguished group of five professors from UMDNJ who have won Fulbright awards since 2001.

- Terri Guess

UMDNJ Research Special Issue: Post Docs & Their Mentors, Features Dr. Echeverria

Sandra Echeverria, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Epidemiology, is featured with her original article entitled "Social Contexts and Health" in a special issue of UMDNJ Research Magazine. She is pictured (right) with mentors George Rhoads, MD, MPH, professor and acting chair, Department of Epidemiology, and Barbara DiCicco-Bloom, PhD, assistant professor,

Department of Family Medicine, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Director of the National Research Service Award Primary Care/Health Services Research Training Program.

Sandra's postdoctoral research has focused on studies related to the following questions: How do social conditions influence health? What specific features are most relevant to study and what sources of data have to be examined this relation? And importantly, what can public health professionals do to address the broader social conditions that produce and sustain disease? Her research also has explored novel and feasible approaches for addressing social inequalities in health. To read the entire article, go to

<http://www.umdj.edu/home2web/research/publications/fall08/7.htm>.



UMDNJ Stratford Campus Inter-Professional Grand Rounds

"The Value of Inter-Professional Education in the Community/Bridging the Gaps at UMDNJ"

Thursday, January 22, 2009, 4:30-5:30 PM, Academic Center Multi-Purpose Room

Sponsored by the UMDNJ-School of Public Health

For more information, please contact Dr. Bernadette M. West, westbm@umdj.edu

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."



Congratulations go to SPH Student Scholarship Recipients!

The SPH scholarship recipients recently were announced by the School's Scholarship Committee. Congratulations to the following individuals:

- **Champions Endowed Scholarship**
Raina Brown (Stratford)
- **Estate of Edith Richards Scholarship**
Stephanie Ng (Newark)
- **Student Assistance Endowment**
Diane Lucas and Urmila Chandran (Piscataway)
- **SPH General Scholarship**
Girish Prajapati (Piscataway)
- **Stanley Bergen Endowed Scholarship**
Olivia Wackowski (renewable for 4 years; year 4) (Piscataway)
- **Werner O. Schilling Endowed Scholarship**
Veronica Ashton (Piscataway)

SPH "Meets and Greets" as Part of 1st UMDNJ Day at the State Capitol

Thursday, October 23, 2008 was an introductory day for a number of UMDNJ students, faculty and staff at the first "UMDNJ Day at the State Capitol," which was held at the New Jersey State House Annex in Trenton. While UMDNJ participants took the opportunity to learn about their state government, state legislators and their staffs learned about the University's eight schools and other university entities. The schools

provided exhibitions and table displays for state workers to visit in addition to UMDNJ providing free glucose screenings, blood pressure screenings, body mass index calculations, and several other health-related educational opportunities.

SPH's table was staffed by Tina Greco, MSM, Piscataway/New Brunswick Campus Administrator, and Stratford/Camden Campus MPH students Raina Brown and Mikel Pride, DO, made their rounds with the other UMDNJ attendees.



New Jersey State Flag



MPH student Raina Brown Meets NJ Senator Christopher "Kip" Bateman.



UMDNJ visitors fill the gallery of the Assembly Chambers.



Tina Greco, MSM



MPH student Mikel Pride, DO, strikes up discussion in Trenton.



NJ Senator Richard Codey meets lively UMDNJ group.



Far left: MPH Student Raina Brown. Center: Congressman John Adler, NJ State Senator Joe Vitale. Far right: MPH Student Mikel Pride, DO.



Awards - Research - Faculty News

Congratulations to the following individuals for their special achievements. If you have additional good news, please contact Wayne Dietterick at diettawa@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

Alan C. Monheit, PhD, appointed senior scholar in the Department of Health Policy, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, PA.

Leah Z. Ziskin¹, MD, MS, appointed a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, January 1, 2009 to July 1, 2010.

Youngmia Song, PhD, appointed research teaching specialist III, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health.

AWARDS

Joanna Burger², PhD, received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Society for Risk Analysis, an international scientific organization at the Society's 2008 annual meeting in Boston. The Society's highest award was given to Dr. Burger in recognition of her "extraordinary achievement in science relating to risk analysis".

Joanna Burger², PhD, and Michael Gochfeld³, PhD, along with four co-authors from native Aleut communities -- Karen Pletnikoff, Daniel Snigaroff, Ronald Snigaroff, and Timothy Stamm -- received the Society of Risk Analysis award for the best paper of 2008 published in the Society's journal "Risk Analysis". Their paper was on "Ecocultural attributes: evaluating ecological degradation in terms of ecological goods and services versus subsistence and tribal values".

GRANTS

Vicki Freedman, PhD, received \$29,548 from the National Institute on Aging through the Regents of the University of Michigan for her project entitled Reconciling Divergent Evidence on Trends in Old-Age Disability. The subcontract will run from August 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

Mitchel Rosen, MS (Principal Investigator), **Koshy Koshy, PhD** (Program Coordinator), received \$63,903 from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health through Mount Sinai School of Medicine for their project entitled ERC: Continuing Education and Outreach Program. The project runs from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2010 and has been awarded a grand total of \$261,141 to date.

Mitchel Rosen, MS (Principal Investigator), **Koshy Koshy, PhD** (Program Coordinator), received \$87,331 from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health through Mount Sinai School of Medicine for their project entitled ERC: Continuing Education and Outreach Program-NORA. The project runs from July 1, 2005

to June 30, 2010 and has been awarded a grand total of \$356,879 to date.

Mitchel Rosen, MS (Principal Investigator), **Koshy Koshy, PhD** (Program Coordinator), received \$62,000 from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health through Mount Sinai School of Medicine for their project entitled ERC: Continuing Education and Outreach Program-Hazardous Substance Training. The project runs from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2010 and has been awarded a grand total of \$243,407 to date.

Jane Lewis, DrPH, received \$11,500 from the Middlesex County Health Department for her project entitled "Dare to be You and Strengthening Families". The project began on October 15, 2007 and will run until October 14, 2008.

Marcia Sass, ScD, received \$105,000 from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services-Office of Cancer Control and Prevention for year 2 of her project entitled 'Evaluation and Technical Assistance in Support of OCCP County Coalition Activities and the Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan'. The project began on September 21, 2007 and will run until June 30, 2009 with a grand total of \$210,000 being awarded.

PUBLICATIONS

Fyffe DC¹, **Hudson SV**, **Fagan JK¹**, **Brown DR**. Knowledge and Barriers Related to Prostate and Colorectal Cancer Prevention in Underserved Black Men. *J Natl Med Assoc.* 2008;100:1-7.

Renna F, **Grafova IB**, **Thakur N**. Effect of Friends on Adolescent Weight Status. *Econ Hum Biol* 2008;6(3):377-87.

Grafova I. Overweight Children: Assessing the Contribution of the Built Environment. *Prev Med* 2008;47(3):304-08.

Borjan M^{4,5}, **Constantino P**, **Robson M^{5,6}**. New Jersey migrant and seasonal farmworkers: enumeration and access to healthcare study. *New Solutions* 2008;10:77-86.

Garetano G¹, **Stern A¹**, **Robson M^{5,6}**, **Gochfeld M³**. Mercury vapor in residential building common areas in communities that use mercury for cultural purposes versus a reference community. *Sci Total Environ* 2008;397(1-3):131-39.

Siriwong W, **Sitticharoenchai D**, **Borjan M^{4,5}**, **Thirakhupt K**, **Robson M^{5,6}**. Organochlorine pesticide residues in plankton, Rangsit Agricultural Area, Central Thailand. *Bull Environ Contam Toxicol* 2008;81(6):608-12. doi:10.1007/s00128-008-9532-4.

Petchuay C, **Thoumsang S**, **Visuthismajarn P**, **Vitayavirasak B**, **Buckley B**, **Hore P**, **Robson M^{5,6}**. Analytical method developed for measurement of dialkylphosphate metabolites in urine collected from children non-occupationally exposed to organophosphate pesticides in an agricultural community in Thailand. *Bull Environ Contam Toxicol* 2008;81(4):401-05. doi:10.1007/s00128-008-9515-5.

Siriwong W, **Sitticharoenchai D**, **Rohitrattana J**, **Thongkongowm P**, **Thirakhupt K**, **Robson M^{5,6}**. Biomagnification of organochlorine pesticides in aquatic food web of Rangsit Agricultural Area, Thailand. *Ecological Indicators* 2008. doi:10.1016/j.ecolind.2008.10.004.

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Hammond JS, **Lipoti JA¹**. Essentials of Terror Medicine. Chapter 14, "Radiological Agents and Terror Medicine." New York: Springer, 2009.

Lipoti JA¹. Exposure Reduction Through Quality Assurance for Diagnostic X-ray Procedures. *Health Phys* 2008;95(5):577-85.

Mettler FA Jr, **Thomadsen BR**, **Bhargavan M**, **Gilley DB**, **Gray JE**, **Lipoti JA¹**, **McCrohan J**, **Yoshizumi TT**, **Maresh M**. Medical Radiation Exposure in the U.S. in 2006: Preliminary results. *Health Phys* 2008;95(5):502-07.

Selvam N; **Passannante M⁷**. Commentary: More than Just Luck--The Impact of Dr. George W. Comstock on Tuberculosis in the 20th Century. *Am J Epidemiol* 2008. doi:10.1093/aje/kwn112.

Farfel M, **DiGrande L**, **Brackbill R**, **Prann A**, **Cone J**, **Friedman S**, **Walker DJ**, **Pezeshki G**, **Thomas P⁷**, **Galea S**, **Williamson D**, **Frieden TR**, **Thorpe L**. An Overview of 9/11 Experiences and Respiratory and Mental Health Conditions among World Trade Center Health Registry Enrollees. *J Urban Health* 2008. Available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11524-008-9317-4>.

PRESENTATIONS

Christine Poulsen⁸ presented "An Enduring Legacy - A Digital Repository of Educational and Training Resources on All Hazards Preparedness for the Public Health Work Force and the General Public" at the Rutgers University

(Continued on page 4)

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UPDATES

Mary E. Northridge, PhD, MPH '88, was re-appointed editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Public Health. This is her fourth appointment, having served three previous 3-year terms since 1993.

A professor of clinical Sociomedical Sciences at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, Dr. Northridge served as interim, deputy,

and assistant editors prior to her editor-in-chief appointments. She also holds a joint appointment in the College of Dental Medicine and is a faculty member in the Urban Planning Program.

Please email sph-alum-updates@lists.umdnj.edu to keep us informed of your work, your achievements and the progress you are making in your respective areas of expertise.

(Continued from page 3)

"Undergraduate Public Health Practicum Presentations," RU-Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, New Brunswick, NJ, December 12, 2008. Ms. Poulsen will graduate from Rutgers January 2009 and will immediately begin her MPH studies in environmental and occupational health at SPH under Advisor Dr. Mark Robson. She was an intern at the New Jersey Center for Public Health Preparedness this past fall semester; Center Director Dr. Glenn Paulson served as her supervisor.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Alan C. Monheit, PhD, served as a discussant for the paper "Does Health Insurance Make you Fat?" at Louisiana State University / National Bureau of Economic Research conference on Economic Aspects of Obesity, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, November 11, 2008. Dr. Monheit also served as moderator and presenter for a Presidential Debate on Health Care Reform (between New Jersey State Senators Bill Baroni & Lorretta Weinberg), UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, NJ, October 14, 2008. Additionally, he served as panelist for the Health Care Reform and the 2008 Presidential Elections: A Cross-Academic Forum, at Rutgers University's Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, New Brunswick, NJ, Oc-

tober 10, 2008. UMDNJ was a sponsor of this event.

Glenn Paulson, PhD, participated in the closed meeting of the Preparedness College recently established by the NJ Office of Homeland Security and Protection, held at Rutgers University, September 14, 2008. This is a relatively new, by invitation only, group of senior academicians who advise that Office on its various preparedness initiatives. Other participants with an affiliation with the School who also participated were **Mitchell Erickson¹, PhD**, who was one of the speakers on the activities of the Science and Technology Directorate of the US Department of Homeland Security, **Paul Liroy³, PhD**, both faculty in Environmental and Occupational Health at SPH; and Jeffrey Hammond, a member of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School but also on the Advisory Committee for SPH's New Jersey Center for Public Health Preparedness. The members of the College provided advice to the OHSP representatives on critical infrastructure and security studies just being started on the lower Delaware River region as well as the northern NJ, NYC, Long Island, CT metropolitan area.

Marian Passannante⁷, PhD, is a member of a multidisciplinary team - the Pedestrian Injury Prevention Partnership for Child Pedestrian Safety - which was selected to participate in the

2008-2009 Public Health Traffic Safety Institute mini-grant program, funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the American Public Health Association. The Partnership includes representatives from Newark Public Schools, the Newark Police Department, the City of Newark Department of Engineering, and injury researchers at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) and UMDNJ-School of Public Health. The Director of the Project, David Livingston, MD, is a Wesley J. Howe Professor and Chief of Trauma Surgery at NJMS. The mini-grant program supported travel for five team members to attend a faculty orientation held prior to the American Public Health Association meeting recently held in San Diego, CA, supports ongoing education and communication via teleconference and distance learning, supports technical assistance with program planning and evaluation, and provides a financial award to support the purchase of equipment to enhance the community collaboration.

¹ Adjunct Faculty

² RU-Division of Life Sciences

³ UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

⁴ Doctoral Candidate

⁵ SPH Alumnus/Alumna

⁶ RU-School of Environmental & Biological Sciences

⁷ UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

⁸ MPH Candidate

NJDEP Staff Acknowledges SPH Student's Work



(Ms. Jennifer Hollis recently completed her fieldwork at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. She is an MPH student in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health; Dr. Mark Robson served as fieldwork faculty supervisor.)

Dear Dr. Robson,

It has been a real pleasure to work with Ms. Hollis. She has taken on a project that will help us tremendously with our outreach. For some time now we have known there was a great need to educate owners of new construction that have radon resistant construction features built into their homes. Many do not realize that they need to test their homes for radon because they think the radon resistant features completely handle the radon issue. The brochure that Ms. Hollis prepared will be printed as soon as we receive the appropriate review and approval from management and communications.

In addition, the card that she has created is a new type of outreach tool for us. Our other outreach materials are brochures and longer documents. We saw a need for a short, small card that can be left in stores and doctors' offices.

Ms. Hollis educated herself on the topic of radon and her first drafts of both documents were

thorough and showed that she had a clear understanding of the topic and that she knew exactly what we were trying to accomplish with the documents. I reviewed several drafts and provided comments, and she picked up immediately on what needed to be changed in order to present the material accurately. She took all comments as constructive feedback and used them to improve her documents each time. I admire her ability to focus on the task at hand and take it where it needs to go, even working from a distance from our program. Just from working with Ms. Hollis this short time, I feel that she would be an asset to the Radon Section if she worked with us, so I know she will do well in her career.

Pat Gardner* and I would like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in this project. This has been very successful for the Radon Section and we are hoping it has served you and Ms. Hollis well also. We hope to be able to work on future projects with you and your students.

Sincerely,
Anita Kopera, Supervisor**
State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Environmental Radiation
Radon Section
Trenton, NJ

Footnotes:

* Patricia Gardner is chief of the Bureau of Environmental Radiation.

** Anita Kopera acted at the site preceptor for Ms. Hollis' fieldwork project.

Look for more fieldwork news in the February Dean's Bulletin Board.

New! HEROES Training

HEROES (Health Educators Reaching Others and Ensuring Surge Capacity during Public Health Emergencies), a new web-based training, has been developed in a collaborative effort among the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, the UMDNJ-School of Public Health's NJ Center for Public Health Preparedness, Rutgers, The State University of NJ, and the NJ Society for Public Health Education.

Launched in November 2008, it is designed to describe different types of emergencies; explain the various phases of an emergency; clarify the role of health educators in emergency response; highlight the importance of having health education surge capacity; and encourage health educators to join their local Medical Reserve Corps units. HEROES is currently available on the NJ Learning Management Network system at <https://njlmm.rutgers.edu> and can be found in the Library section. For more information, please contact Concetta C. Polonsky, CHES, Health Educator II, NJ Center for Public Health Preparedness, Phone: 732-235-9703, Fax: 732-235-2051, www.njcph.org.



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