

Dean's Bulletin Board

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Two SPH Faculty Announced as 2009 Edward J. III Award Recipients

Two University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) School of Public Health faculty are among the list of awardees of the 2009 Edward J. III Excellence in Medicine Awards® recently released by Dr. Paul J. Hirsch, chairman of the Edward J. III Excellence in Medicine Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Jill A. Lipoti, adjunct assistant professor, will receive a Special Award for her achievements in protecting and maintaining the safety and welfare of the people of New Jersey, and Mr. John W. Beckley, adjunct instructor, will receive the Verice M. Mason Community Service Leader Award on behalf of Hunterdon County Partnership for Health.

The awards will be presented at the awards ceremony on May 6, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Princeton.

Dr. Lipoti has earned this recognition for her dedicated efforts at protecting the people of New Jersey from unnecessary exposure to radiation from natural and man-made sources. She is Director of the

Division of Environmental Safety and Health in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. She has responsibility for radiation protection, chemical release prevention, quality assurance, and pollution prevention. Dr. Lipoti guided the Bureau of Radiological Health in the development and implementation of a Radiographic Quality Assurance Program that resulted in reducing patient radiation exposure by over 35% and improving image quality by over 15 percent for common radiological examinations. This program has received national recognition and has served as a model for other states. Dr. Lipoti's responsibilities also include participation in domestic security preparedness as an expert in chemical, radiological and nuclear emergency preparedness.

"Dr. Lipoti unquestionably merits recognition for her achievements in radiological safety and health," said Dr. Hirsch. "She is not only extremely well respected for her professional competency as a scientist and administrator, but also as an innovator, teacher and author."



Jill Lipoti



John Beckley

The Verice M. Mason Community Service Leader Award is presented to an organization that demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to improving the health and welfare of the citizens of New Jersey, and to an individual representing that organization who has personified, led and/or provided the vision for that organization.

Mr. John Beckley has been practicing public health for over 30 years, and has been the Public Health Director for Hunterdon County since 1985. Mr. Beckley has been deeply involved in helping to meet many emerging public health challenges in New Jersey. In 1995, he co-founded the Hunterdon County Partnership for Health with Robert Wise of

(EJI Recipients continued on page 2)

The 14th Annual Public Health Symposium

"Research and Practice in Global Public Health Issues"

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009
BEGINNING AT 1:30 PM

UMDNJ - WEST LECTURE HALL
RWJ MEDICAL SCHOOL
PISCATAWAY, NJ

Co-sponsored by the UMDNJ-School of Public Health and the New Jersey Public Health Association

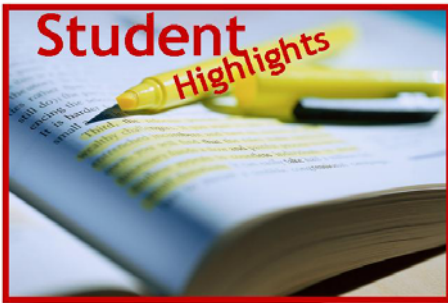
Monday, April 6, 2009
1:30pm - 8:00pm
UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
West Lecture Hall

For more information, visit <http://www.publichealthsymposium.org>

This event is held in conjunction with National Public Health Week, April 6-13, 2009.

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."





Vasudha Nekkanti, MPH Candidate Newark Campus

Vasudha Nekkanti, MPH student in Urban Health Administration (URHA), graduated from Stevens Institute of Technology with a BS in Chemical Biology and BA in Literature. During her time at the School of Public Health, Ms. Nekkanti participated in the Tobacco Dependence Program's Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training to learn to develop evidence-based treatment plans for nicotine addiction. She presented the findings of research she conducted on tobacco support services during a poster session at the 2008 American Public Health Association conference. She has been accepted into UMDNJ-New Jersey

Medical School, beginning August 2009. Presentation Title: Assessment of a Tobacco Dependence Pilot Intervention for Pregnant Women; Fieldwork Faculty Advisor, Academic Advisor: Dr. Evan Stark, chair, URHA; Site Preceptor: Ms. Heather Jordan, MPH, CHES, CTTS.



Sarah Kelly, MPH Candidate Piscataway/New Brunswick Campus

Sarah Kelly, MPH student in Environmental and Occupational Health (ENOH), and in Health Systems and Policy (HSAP), will begin a paid

internship this month through June with the New York City Department of Health. She will be working in the Built Environment program doing community outreach for the stair prompt program (signs that encourage people to take the stairs instead of an elevator). The program also has a green component, with its slogan being "Burn calories, not electricity." Also, she is applying to the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (<http://www.usphs.gov>). Fieldwork Faculty Advisor, Academic Advisor: Dr. Mark Robson, professor, ENOH; Academic Advisor: Dr. Lois Grau, associate professor and chair, HSAP.



UPCOMING V.O.I.C.E.S. EVENTS

<http://sph.umdj.edu/voices>

Socks-Underwear-Diaper Drive Through March 30

Through our recent work with several community agencies, the Volunteer Opportunities In Community Engaged Service (V.O.I.C.E.S.) group at SPH has learned that there is a serious need for diapers for new mothers in the New Brunswick area and also that many of the people in Camden who are living on the streets and using the syringe exchange program need NEW socks and underwear.

Therefore, V.O.I.C.E.S. is conducting a SOCKS-UNDERWEAR-DIAPER collection. ADULT underwear and socks (NEW) will be collected for the Camden Syringe Exchange Program. DIAPERS OF ALL SIZES will be collected for the Christ Church Food Pantry in New Brunswick. The collection will begin Monday, February 16 and end Monday, March 30. Boxes will be placed on the first floor of the SPH building (Piscataway) by the elevators.

We would like to thank everyone in advance for your generous donations!

Soup Night - March 10

When: Tuesday, March 10 Time: 12:00-1:00pm and 5:00-6:10pm Where: 1st floor atrium, SPH - Piscataway. If you have your bowl from last time you can bring that along or you can

purchase soup, bread, and the bowl for \$3.00. All proceeds will go towards helping save the Hope Community Outreach Center in Camden.

Hunger Walk - April 11

The Hunger Walk is a 6 mile (there's also a 1 mile stroll) event on Saturday, April 11, 2009 in Philadelphia. If you would like to participate in this event and help save the Hope Community Outreach Center (<http://hopecoc.org>) building, along with helping the fight against hunger, please fill out the registration form at www.hungerwalk.org. Please make sure to include the Hope Community Outreach Center's Team Number 36 on your registration form.

Please let us know if you will be participating in this walk.

(EJI Recipients continued from page 1)

Hunterdon Medical Center and Dr. Bernadette West of Local Advisory Board IV. This "healthier community" initiative was among the first in the state and helped to establish relationships and partnerships that continue to serve the health needs of county residents to this day. Mr. Beckley presently serves as the president of the New Jersey Association of County Health Officers.

"Mr. Beckley unquestionably merits recognition for the many contributions he

has made to the residents of Hunterdon County," said Dr. Hirsch. "His leadership and the many accomplishments of the Partnership for Health have impacted even those residents who have never come in contact with the Medical Center or Department of Health directly."

Since 1939, the Edward J. III Excellence in Medicine Association, Inc. annually honors exemplary physicians and leaders whose dedication to education, research and public service has significantly impacted the delivery of healthcare in New Jersey and

around the nation. The awards are named after Dr. Edward J. III, a New Jersey physician who was a pioneer in promoting continuing education in ways that set the national standard. To learn more about the awards, contact the Edward J. III Excellence in Medicine Foundation at (609) 803-2350 or visit www.EJlawards.org. The awards program is sponsored by MDA Advantage Insurance Company of New Jersey, a provider of medical professional liability insurance in New Jersey.

To SPH Faculty: You are invited to attend the Stuart D. Cook, MD Master Educators' Guild Spring Symposium

Thursday, March 19, 2009, 8:00 am - 2:30 pm

Oral Health Pavilion, Room B963, UMDNJ - New Jersey Dental School, Newark, NJ

Portfolios in Competency-Based Education: Keys to Success

Lindsey Henson, MD Vice Dean for Education and Professor of Anesthesiology

University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, MN

For more information, visit <http://meg.umdj.edu>



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

Joanna Burger¹, PhD, MS, elected a fellow of the American Association for Advancement of Science.

Daniel K. Lefkowitz², PhD, MS, adjunct assistant professor, Environmental and Occupational Health.

John M. Malool, course director of the SPH Office of Public Health Practice Hazardous Waste Training Center, was sworn in as chief of the Ridgefield Park, New Jersey Volunteer Fire Department on December 9, 2008.

Alan Monheit, PhD, appointed director, SPH Center for Health Economics and Policy.

Amanda Poonai³, MBA, management assistant, Environmental and Occupational Health.

Sindy M. Paul^{2,3}, MD, MPH, FACPM, was appointed to the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTD) AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Clinical Advisory Work Group.

Sindy M. Paul^{2,3}, MD, MPH, FACPM, was elected Vice-President of the Institute of Medicine and Public Health of New Jersey.

Zdravko Vassilev², MD, MPH, adjunct assistant professor, Epidemiology.

Jun Zhao, PhD, appointed adjunct instructor, Biostatistics.

AWARDS

Joanna Burger¹, PhD, MS, 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 (photo, right) in recognition of her "extraordinary achievement in science relating to risk analysis."

Shirley A. Smoyak⁵, PhD, MPhil, (photo, right) received an award from the Maltese Association of Psychiatric Nurses for her service in the field of psychiatric nursing, November 9, 2008, the Republic of Malta.

For his recent book, *Coercive Control: How Men Entrap Women in Personal Life* (Oxford, 2007; pb. 2009), **Evan Stark⁶, PhD**, received the excellence award from the American Publishers Association for "the best book in sociology and social work published in 2007," and he also received the CHOICE award from the American Library Association for the book being recognized as one of most outstanding academic titles reviewed in 2008.

GRANTS

Vicki Freedman, PhD, received a \$30,532 subaward from the National Institute on Aging through Syracuse University for her project entitled *Prospective Modeling of Functional Pathways: Supplement to End of Life Trajectories-A Prospective Model*. The project began on October 1, 2008 and will run until August 31, 2009.

Vicki Freedman, PhD, received a \$142,117 subcontract from the National Institute on Aging through Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health for year 1 of a 5 year project entitled *National Survey of Disability Trends and Dynamics*. The project began on September 30, 2008 and will run until September 29, 2013 for a grand total of \$756,922.



Joanna Burger

Shirley Smoyak

Junfeng Zhang, PhD, MS (Principal Investigator), **Howard Kipen⁷, MD, MPH** (Co-Investigator), **Shou-en Lu, PhD** (Co-Investigator), **David Rich, ScD, MPH** (Co-Investigator), received an additional \$21,390 for Year 2 of a 3 Year grant from the Health Effects Institute for their project entitled *Molecular and Physiological Responses to Drastic Changes in Particulate Matter Concentration and Composition*. The project began on July 1, 2007 and will run until November 30, 2009 for a grand total of \$612,060.

Kitaw Demissie, MD, MPH, Elizabeth Marrett, MPH (fellowship recipient), received \$66,150 for year 2 of a 2 year Outcomes Research Fellowship with Merck and Co. The fellowship began on October 1, 2007 and will run until September 30, 2009 for a grand total of \$139,800.

Deng L, **Moore DF**. Composite likelihood modeling of neighboring site correlations of DNA

(Continued on page 4)



Kristen Macaluso Lloyd, MPH '07, Epidemiology, and her husband Jim welcomed their first child, Anne Elizabeth Lloyd, on Thursday, December 11, 2008.

Emily Perry Elizondo, MPH '03, CHES, was awarded the 2008 New Jersey Society for Public Health Education (NJ SOPHE) trophy. The NJ SOPHE trophy was created to recognize the volunteer efforts of a member who has gone 'above and beyond' the call of duty for NJ SOPHE. It is given periodically at the discretion of the Executive Board and/or through a recommendation of a member in good standing. This year's winner had several nominations from Board members. Although she is fairly new to NJ SOPHE, she has really stepped up in terms of responsibilities and involvement. She willingly took on tasks related to her position, and fre-

quently offered assistance on special projects as well. Her cohorts describe her as "enthusiastic" "with a real positive attitude" and a pleasure to work with.

Dawn Walter, MPH '07, recently was published for her summer 2007 fieldwork project (see "Publications" page 4). Dawn is a Bioinformatics Analyst at New York University School of Medicine.

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.

We Offer Our Condolences to the Dansbury Family

Michael Dansbury, MPH '09, age 54, of Glassboro, New Jersey, died on February 12, 2009. He is survived by his wife Betty; children, Michael Hunter, Kirsten and Wyatt; brothers, Alfred James Dansbury and Robert Dansbury; sister, Marvel Dansbury; and a host of relatives and friends. Mass will be held Saturday, February 14 at 11am at Our Lady of Lourdes, 500 Greentree Rd, Glassboro; viewing 9-11am. In lieu of flowers donations can be made at any TD Bank. Please make checks payable to "Benefit for Michael Dansbury - Son's College Fund."

Michael was a Stratford/Camden Campus student and recently had received his MPH degree in January 2009.



Michael Dansbury

(Continued from page 3)

sequence substitution rates. *Statistical Applications in Genetics and Molecular Biology* 2009;8(1):Article 6. DOI: 10.2202/1544-6115.1391. Available at: <http://www.bepress.com/sagmb/vol8/iss1/art6>.

George Rhoads, MD, MPH, received a \$121,751 contract from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services-Division of Epidemiology, Environmental, and Occupational Health for his project entitled Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance. The contract began on January 1, 2009 and will run until December 31, 2009.

David Rich, ScD, MPH (Principal Investigator) and **Pamela Ohman-Strickland, PhD** (Co-Investigator), received a \$87,750 subcontract from the US Environmental Protection Agency through Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey for their project entitled Refined Exposure Surrogates for Ambient Particulate Matter in Epidemiology Studies. The project began on September 1, 2008 and will run until July 31, 2010.

Mark Robson^{3,8}, PhD, MPH, MS (Principal Investigator), **Junfeng Zhang, PhD, MS** (Co-Principal Investigator) received \$141,250 from the John E. Fogarty International Center for Year 3 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 31, 2012 for a grand total of \$725,250.

Jeannette Rogowski, PhD, received a \$16,383 subcontract from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation through the University of Pennsylvania for year 2 of her project entitled Interdisciplinary Nursing Quality Research Initiative: Acuity Adjusted Staffing, Nurse Practice Environments. The project began on September 1, 2007 and will run until August 31, 2009 for a grand total of \$62,467.

Mitchel Rosen, MS, received \$99,999 from the Health Resources and Services Administration through Columbia University for Year 3 of a 5 year grant for the New York/New Jersey Public Health Training Center. The project began on September 1, 2006 and will run until August 31, 2011 with a grand total of \$290,328 having been awarded.

Mitchel Rosen, MS, received a \$60,000 subcontract from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences through Bandemar Networks, LLC. for year 1 of a 2 year project entitled Mobile Just-in-Time Training of Emergency Response Personnel-Phase II. The project began on August 12, 2008 and will run until July 31, 2010 for a grand total of \$119,616.

Mitchel Rosen, MS (Principal Investigator), **Deidre Holland, MPH, CHES, REHS** (Co-Investigator), **Michelle Kennedy³, MPH, CHES** (Co-Investigator) received \$30,000 from the Association of Schools of Public Health for their project entitled Public Health in Action: Conference and Introductory Practice Experience Among Undergraduate Students in New Jersey. The project began on January 15, 2009 and will run until September 30, 2009.

Derek Shendell, DEnv, MPH (Program Director), **Laura Hemminger³, MPH, CHES** (Program Manager), received \$225,000 from the New Jersey Department of Education for their project entitled 'Occupational Education and Safety and Health Training and Standards Updating'. The project began on November 1, 2001 and will run until October 31, 2009 with a grand total of \$1,743,807 having been awarded.

Weichung Shih, PhD, received a \$9,893 subcontract from the National Institutes of Health through Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey for year 1 of a 5 year project entitled Inhibition of Skin Cancer by Caffeine. The project began on July 1, 2008 and will run until June 30, 2013 for a grand total of \$59,773.

PUBLICATIONS

Ananth CV⁷, Gyamfi C, Jain L (Editorial). Characterizing risk profiles of infants who are delivered at late preterm gestations: does it matter? *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2008;199:329-31.

Ananth CV⁷, Liu S, Joseph KS, Kramer MS; for the Fetal and Infant Health Study Group of the Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System. A comparison of fetal and infant mortality in the United States and Canada. *Int J Epidemiol* 2008 [Epub ahead of print].

Brimacombe M⁹, Walter D³, Salberg L. Gender Disparity in a Large Nonreferral-Based Cohort of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Patients. *J Womens Health* 2008;17(10):1629-1634.

Cardelle AJ, **Holland DJ**. Public Health Shortage Areas in Pennsylvania: A Barrier to Health Information. *Commonwealth: A Journal of Political Science; Special Policy Issue: Public Health in Pennsylvania* 2008;14(1):7-21. Available online at <http://www.house.state.pa.us/CJPS/issues/details.cfm?vol=14&art=2>.

Sindy M. Paul^{2,3}, MD, MPH, FACPM, co-authored an article with CDC that has been nominated for the CDC 2009 Charles C. Shepard Award. The article, Heterosexual Anal Sex Activity in the Year after an STD Clinic Visit, was published in the journal Sexually Transmitted Diseases in 2008.

Pleasant A⁸. (2008). Communicating statistics and risk. *Science and Development Network (SciDevNet) Practical Guides*. Available at <http://www.scidev.net/en/practical-guides/communicating-statistics-and-risk.html>.

Pleasant A⁸. (2008). Measuring Health Literacy: A Challenge to Curriculum Design and Evaluation. First in the series of Research Briefs on Adult Literacy. Available at <http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/publications/briefs/measuring/1.htm>.

PRESENTATIONS

Liu J, Chen L, **Zhao J**, **Moore DF**, **Lin Y**, **Shih WJ**. On calculating the probability of a set of orthogonal sequences. Poster presented at the DIMACS/CINJ BioMedical Informatics Summit 2009, New Brunswick, NJ, January 27, 2009.

Freedman VA. Developing measures of time-use to study disability in the Panel Study of Income Dynamics. Presented at the National Academy of Sciences, Workshop on Improving Measurement of Late-Life Disability in Popula-

tion Surveys: Going Beyond ADLs and IADLs, Washington, DC, January 8-9, 2009.

Paul SM^{2,3}. Hepatitis B and C. New Jersey Syringe Exchange Program Update, Hamilton, NJ, December 12, 2008.

Paul SM^{2,3}. Reducing the Risk of Occupational Blood-Borne Pathogen Transmission. New Jersey Syringe Exchange Program Update. Hamilton, NJ, December 12, 2008.

Paul SM^{2,3}. The Role of the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners. New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners Orientation Course, Trenton, NJ, January 31, 2009.

Zhang JJ. Exploring Mechanisms of Air Pollution Health Effects: from London to Piscataway to Beijing. Seminar presentation at the Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center, Los Angeles, CA, January 22, 2009.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Andrew Pleasant⁸, PhD, was the first visiting scholar at the Canyon Ranch Institute (CRI) in Tucson, AZ, January 12-13, 2009. The CRI Visiting Scholar Program recognizes leaders in the fields of prevention and wellness, and invites them to educate and collaborate with CRI through interactive workshops, lectures, and seminars. Through these interactions, the CRI Visiting Scholar Program provides an opportunity for thought leaders to help shape CRI's partnerships and activities. See <http://www.canyonranchinstitute.org/action/scholar/>.



¹ RU-Division of Life Sciences

² Adjunct Faculty

³ Alumna/Alumnus

⁴ SPH Staff


⁵ RU-Bloustein School

⁶ RU-School of Public Affairs & Administration

⁷ UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

⁸ RU-School of Environmental & Biological Sciences

⁹ UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

UMDNJ

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

Dean's Bulletin Board

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