

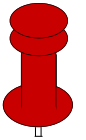


SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

Celebrating our 10th Anniversary
1998 - 2008

Honoring our beginning ~ Shaping our future



March 2009

Dean's Bulletin Board

Newark Campus
Piscataway/New Brunswick Campus
Stratford/Camden Campus

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

SPH Hosts Shandong Province, China, Health Department Officials

In February, a 14-member delegation from the Shandong Province, China, Health Department (SHD), pictured below with SPH faculty and staff, including Deputy Commissioner Bingyu Qiu of the Shandong Health Department, visited the UMDNJ-School of Public Health (SPH) in Piscataway for an all-day session regarding the future possibilities of work between SPH and SHD.

Dr. Junfeng "Jim" Zhang, chair of the SPH Department of Environmental and Occupational Health and associate dean of Global Public Health, initiated discussions with SHD pursuing

(CHINA continued on page 2)



L-R: Dr. Jim Zhang, Dr. George DiFerdinando, Jr.; Shandong Province Health Department Deputy Commissioner Bingyu Qiu; Dr. Audrey Gotsch.



Announcing New Jersey's First Statewide Health Literacy Summit

Friday, April 3, 2009 - 8:00am - 4:00pm

The Enterprise Center at Burlington County College, Mt. Laurel, NJ

For more information, visit <http://sph.umdj.edu> "SPH SPOTLIGHT"

Coordinated by Literacy Volunteers of New Jersey with major support from the Wal-Mart Foundation. Additional support from Horizon NJ Health; New Jersey Library Association; Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey; UMDNJ-SPH Office of Public Health Practice; World Education



14th Annual SPH Public Health Symposium

Co-sponsors: UMDNJ-School of Public Health, NJ Public Health Association

Monday, April 6, 2009 - 3:00pm - 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 -- See agenda on page 4.



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."



UMDNJ
UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE &
DENTISTRY OF NEW JERSEY

RUTGERS
THE STATE UNIVERSITY
OF NEW JERSEY

N J I T
New Jersey's Science &
Technology University



SPH Hosts UMDNJ Stratford Campus Inter-Professional Grand Rounds

Under the initiative of Dr Bernadette West, assistant dean of SPH Stratford/Camden (S/C) Campus and Community Health, and associate professor of Health Systems and Policy, SPH S/C presented "The Value of Inter-Professional Education in the Community/Bridging the Gaps at UMDNJ" as the second in a series of UMDNJ Inter-Professional Grand Rounds scheduled for

Stratford, on Thursday, January 22, 2009. Approximately 250 people attended the event, which featured speakers Audrey R. Gotsch, DrPH, CHES, dean, SPH; Bernadette West, PhD, assistant dean, SPH, program coordinator, Bridging the Gaps at UMDNJ; Lucy Wolf Tuton, PhD, executive director, Bridging the Gaps, University of Pennsylvania; students Raina Brown, SPH; Jon Compton, UMDNJ-School of Osteopathic Medicine (SOM); Sarah Nezworski, SPH and UMDNJ-School of Health Related Professions; Nikul Patel, SOM; Mishanta Reyes, SOM; community partners Carol Wolff, executive director, Camden Area Health Education Center; Pastor Odessa Edmond, executive director, Hope

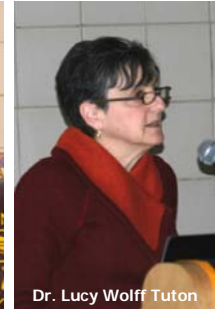
Community Outreach Center; physician Zeina Ghayad, DO, internal medicine resident, SOM and former Bridging the Gaps student at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Philadelphia, PA.



L-R: BTG students Raina Brown, Jon Compton, Nikul Patel, Sarah Nezworski, Mishanta Reyes



Dr. Bernadette West



Dr. Lucy Wolff Tuton



Dr. Audrey Gotsch



Ms. Raina Brown



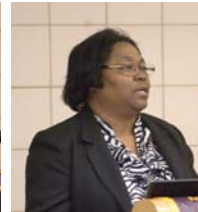
Ms. Mishanta Reyes



Ms. Sarah Nezworski



Ms. Carol Wolff



Rev. Odessa Edmond



Mr. Nikul Patel

(CHINA continued from page 1)

collaborative work with them. Their interests in collaborative opportunities for training and technical assistance for their health department are in the areas of occupational safety and health, health surveillance, tobacco control, and emergency preparedness (e.g. SARS, avian flu).

SPH representatives shared information

on SPH's areas of expertise, such as environmental and occupational health; children's health issues; "real-world" health hazards (such as air pollution) as they relate to occupational medicine and industrial hygiene; public health preparedness; and counseling and research/evaluation components of SPH's Tobacco Dependence Program.

Shandong is the second most populous

province of China with a population of over 95 million and is a major agriculture base and a major industrial base of China. According to the delegation, almost every family in this province has at least one computer.

Because of the success of that visit, the Commissioner of the Shandong Province Health Department is considering personally visiting UMDNJ in June.

V.O.I.C.E.S. Socks-Underwear-Diaper Drive Through March 30

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

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 began Monday, February 16 and will end Monday, March 30. Collection boxes have been placed on the first floor of the SPH building (Piscataway) by the elevators.

We thank you advance for your generous donations!



Awards - Research - Faculty News

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

Fern Goodhart¹, MS, CHES, appointed to the Health/Education/Labor Legislative staff for US Senator Tom Udall (New Mexico). She will be conducting research, recommending legislation, meeting with constituents and lobbyists, and supporting Senator Udall on a broad array of health, labor, education, women, aging, disability, and social issues.

David Henry^{1,2}, MPH '91, appointed adjunct instructor, Health Systems and Policy.

Weichung Joe Shih, PhD, elected as a member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI).

Elected members are elected by virtue of their distinguished contributions to the development or application of statistical methods, or to the administration of statistical services, or the development and improvement of statistical education. Candidates for elected membership must be nominated by three existing honorary or elected ISI members. Elections take place twice a year, under the authority of the ISI Elections Committee, whose recommendations are subject to the approval of the ISI Executive Committee.



Dr. Shih

Dr. Shih was nominated by Jon Kettenring, PhD, director, Charles A. Dana Research Institute for Scientists Emeriti and adjunct professor of Mathematics, Drew University; Thomas Louis,

PhD, professor of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health; and Donald B. Rubin, John L. Loeb Professor of Statistics, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Statistics, Harvard University.

Established in 1885, the ISI is one of the oldest scientific associations operating in the modern world. Its success can be attributed to the increasing worldwide demand for professional statistical information, its leadership in the development of statistical methods and their application, and in the collective dedication of its members.

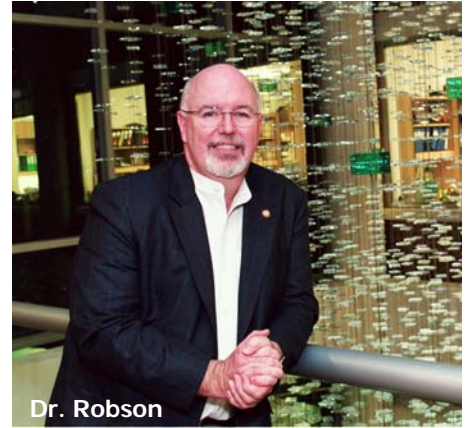
The ISI is composed of more than 2,000 individual elected members who are internationally recognized as the definitive leaders in the field of statistics. Its membership crosses all borders, representing more than 133 countries worldwide. Its office is located in The Hague, The Netherlands - <http://isi.cbs.nl/>.

AWARDS

Mark Robson³, PhD, MPH '95, was one of the winners of the Rutgers University-Graduate School-New Brunswick Awards to Distinguished Alumni for 2009. The awards are presented by the Graduate School-New Brunswick to alumni/ae who have made significant contributions in the Biological Sciences, Humanities, Physical and Mathematical Sciences and Engineering, and the Social and Behavioral Sciences. Awards are also presented for Lifetime Achievement and Early Career Distinction.

Specifically, Dr. Robson's award For Distinguished Accomplishments in Biological Sciences was awarded "for important contributions to the field of environmental health through research, teaching and service."

Dr. Robson secured his BS, MS, and PhD degrees at Rutgers and his MPH degree at the UMDNJ-School of Public Health. He is currently dean of Agricultural Programs and Professor of Entomology, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers University, and is professor of Environmental and Occupational Health at SPH. He also holds a faculty positions at two universities in Thailand. His expertise is in agricultural chemical exposure, and he has



Dr. Robson

recently completed the largest mother-baby paired study of gestational exposure to pesticides, phenols and other endocrine disruptors.

Dr. Robson has been widely recognized as an outstanding educator, and has held numerous leadership and administrative positions both within Rutgers and UMDNJ and in other professional bodies. In his spare time he is a member of several local organizations, including the volunteer fire department.

The sixth Annual Distinguished Alumni/ae Awards Reception and Dinner was held on Friday, March 6, 2009.

GRANTS

Kitaw Demissie, MD, MPH, received \$10,000 from the Foundation of UMDNJ in support of his research at the Department of Epidemiology at the School of Public Health. The funds are the result of a gift from the Buckingham Mountain Foundation.

Marcia Sass, ScD, received an additional \$64,967 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

(NEWS continued on page 4)

Alumni/
alumnae

UPDATES

William F. Martin, PsyD/MPH '88, CHES, is up for tenure in Health Sector Management at DePaul University's College of Commerce in Chicago, IL. Dr. Martin was the first PsyD/MPH student and graduate at SPH. He writes, "The

blend between public health and psychology has been wonderful for my career. At this point, I am developing an interest in public health entrepreneurship because DePaul has one of the top entrepreneurship programs in the US at both the undergraduate and graduate level."

Dr. Martin expresses his thanks to Dr. Gotsch and Ms. Tina Greco for their support of him as the first PsyD/MPH student navigating two different programs, curricula, and ideologies.

Charletta Ayers, MD, MPH '99, and Pamela Brug, MD, of UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS), presented "Disparities in Prenatal Diseases and Infant Mortality" for

Black History Month at RWJMS on Friday, February 27, 2009.

Dr. Ayers is associate professor and vice chair, Department of OB/GYN and Reproductive Sciences, RWJMS, and director, Division of General Obstetrics and Gynecology and chief of GYN Service at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, NJ.



Dr. Ayers

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.

UMDNJ-SPH announces

Health Education and Behavioral Science (HEBS)

course offerings to the
Newark Campus*

Applications for Fall 2009
Semester will be accepted
until July 1, 2009.

*HEBS 0656, Social Marketing, will not be offered in Newark, so must be taken in Piscataway.

(NEWS continued from page 3)

run until June 30, 2009 with a grand total of \$274,967 being awarded.

PUBLICATIONS

Aveyard P, **Foulds J**. The 2008 US Clinical Practice Guideline: the key recommendations and a commentary. www.treatobacco.net 2009 *Ask the Experts*. Accessed 01 March 2009. http://www.treatobacco.net/en/page_349.html

Gandhi KK, **Foulds J, Steinberg MB^{2,4}, Lu SE, Williams J⁴**. Lower quit rates among menthol cigarette smokers at a tobacco treatment clinic. *Int J Clin Pract* 2009;63(3):360-7. Note: UMDNJ's release on this research generated significant interest. The month it was posted on Newswise (<http://www.newswise.com/>), it was one of the most frequently accessed articles on the site.

Greenburg MR⁵, West BM, Lowrie KW, Mayer HJ. *The Reporter's Handbook on Nuclear Materials, Energy, and Waste Management*. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 2009.

Peterman T, Tian LH, Metcalf C, Malotte K, **Paul SM^{1,2}**, and Douglas JM. Persistent, undetected *T. vaginalis* infections? *Clin Infect Dis* 2009;48(2): 259-260.

Egwuogu H, **Shendell DG**, Okosun SI, Goodfellow LT. The Effect of Urinary Cadmium on Cardiovascular Fitness as Measured by VO₂ max in White, Black and Mexican Americans. *Environ Res* 2009;109:292-300.

Vassilev ZP¹, Chu AF, Ruck B, Adams EH, Marcus SM. Evaluation of Adverse Drug Reactions Reported to a Poison Control Center between 2000 and 2007. *Am J Health Syst Pharm* 2009;66(5):481-7.

Williams JM⁴, Gandhi KK, Karavidas MK, **Steinberg M^{2,4}, Lu SE, Foulds J**. Open label study of craving in smokers with schizophrenia using nicotine nasal spray compared to nicotine patch. *J Dual Diag* 2008;4(4):355-376.

PRESENTATIONS

Irina B. Grafova, PhD, presented "Financial Strain and Smoking" (paper) at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Rockville, Maryland, February 26, 2009.

Sindy M. Paul^{1,2}, MD, MPH '93, FACPM, presented "Prevention of Perinatal HIV Transmission" at the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Piscataway, NJ, March 3, 2009.

Andrew Pleasant³, PhD, presented "Health literacy measurement: A brief review and proposal" at the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science, Washington, DC, February 26, 2009.

¹ Adjunct Faculty

² Alumna/Alumnus

³ RU-School of Environmental & Biological Sciences

⁴ UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

⁵ RU-Bloustein School

SPH 14th Annual Public Health Symposium (see p. 1 for date/time/location details)

3:00 p.m.

Registration/Exhibits

4:00 p.m.

Air Pollution and the Global Burden of Disease

Junfeng (Jim) Zhang, PhD, MS

4:30 p.m.

Challenges and Opportunities in Global Environmental Health Research

Mark G. Robson, BS, MS, PhD, MPH, ATS

5:00 p.m.

Promoting Environmental Health and Exposure Characterization in Rapidly Urbanizing Areas of A Less Developed Country in Africa: Collaborative Short-Course Training and Pilot Field Research in Ibadan, Nigeria

Derek Shendell, DEnv, MPH

5:30 p.m.

Pertussis and Influenza Trends and Prevention Strategies

Dr. Eric Benning

6:00 p.m.

The Dominican Republic Health Outreach Project: Moving from handouts for today to building a community for tomorrow.

Lois Grau, PhD, MS

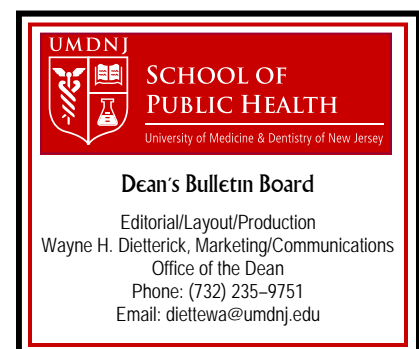
6:30 p.m.

Reception

V.O.I.C.E.S. REMINDER! Hunger Walk

The Hunger Walk is a six-mile (there's also a one-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 Building in Camden, NJ, 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.

<http://hopecoc.org/index.htm>



The importance of health literacy ...

Health literacy is the "neglected, final pathway to high-quality health care."
- U.S. Institute of Medicine