



Dean's Bulletin Board

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SPH & New Brunswick Health Sciences Technology HS Collaboration Brings NJDHSS Recognition

The SPH V.O.I.C.E.S. organization's work with the Public Health Club (PHC) at New Brunswick Health Sciences Technology High School - a club that the SPH organization is responsible for establishing - led to PHC's active participation in a CDC/NJ-funded outreach education program to the Hispanic community addressing antimicrobial resistance. The particular focus was on creating Spanish materials for populations with a lower literacy level. Since research shows that fotonovelas have been very effective with this specifically-targeted population, it was decided to create a fotonovela poster that could be reproduced and displayed in highly visible public places, such as waiting rooms, laundromats, and nail salons. PHC students decided to create a



The students of the New Brunswick Health Sciences Technology High School were presented with certificates from New Jersey Public Health Commissioner Heather Howard, thanking them for their work on the anti-microbial bacteria project. L to R: Ivan Estrada, Stephanie Torres, SPH doctoral students Marija Borjan and Chizoba Nwankwo, Andres Sepulveda, Saga Mogzoub, Jeanette Galindo, and Ana Bonilla.

fotonovela geared toward high school youth regarding the importance of following the directions on prescription medica-

tions. NJ PH Commissioner Heather Howard sent each student a letter recognizing his/her work on the fotonovela.

SPH Alumna Integral In Remarkable Effort to Reduce Health Disparities Among Hispanics in NJ

Hispanics are underrepresented in the health care professions. Due to cultural and language barriers many Hispanic patients do not receive the health care they deserve. This is why in June 2005 the HoHoKus Hackensack School, Hackensack, NJ, and the Palisades Medical Center of North Bergen, NJ, proposed the creation of a bilingual (English/Spanish) track for nurses to address the growing Hispanic population in Hudson County and the shortage of Spanish speaking nurses in New Jersey.

Thomas Eastwick, president of Eastwick Colleges, committed to the development of the Bilingual Hispanic Licensed Practical Nursing Program at the HoHoKus Hackensack School, and Dr. Rafael Castilla, vice president of academic affairs, led a team of instructors and administrators who created this novel curriculum, which was approved by the New Jersey Board of Nursing and the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools. UMDNJ-School of Public Health alumna Claudia Garcia del Puerto, MD, MPH '06, CHES, has been an integral part of that team.

In 2006, after finishing her MPH degree at SPH, Dr. del Puerto was recruited for the faculty of the HoHoKus Hackensack School of Business and Medical Sciences (HHS-BMS) of Eastwick Colleges. She created part of the curriculum for the Hispanic Bilingual Licensed Practical



One of the community activities that SPH alumna Dr. Claudia Garcia del Puerto coordinated with local community organizations was the Blood Pressure Clinic as part of the national "America's Night Out Against Crime" event in the city of Hackensack. She is pictured above, second from right, with three of her students at that event.

(ALUMNA continued 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."





Preparedness
& Response
CORE COMPETENCY
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

ASPH is partnering with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to build upon existing work and develop core competencies for the public health preparedness and response workforce. The project was included in the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, passed into law in 2006.

A Leadership Council will guide the project toward completion in July 2010. Co-chairs of the Leadership Council are Dean Audrey Gotsch (UMDNJ) and Dr. C. William Keck.

Request for Volunteers

If you are an expert in public health preparedness, then consider volunteering for a workgroup to distill the essential core competencies for the public health workforce. Workgroups will be formed in July and begin reviewing background documents. Your time commitment will consist of reviewing background documents, completing Delphi surveys between September 2009 and January 2010, and attending a few conference calls with your workgroup. Since the competency model will be for the workforce, ASPH particularly encourages public health practitioners to volunteer.

Email John McElligott at jmcelligott@asph.org by June 15.

Members of the Leadership Council

- Co-chair Audrey Gotsch, DrPH, CHES, Dean, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) - School of Public Health
- Co-chair C. William Keck, MD, MPH, Professor Emeritus, Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine
- D. W. Chen, CAPT, MD, MPH, Medical Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Department of Defense
- Richard D. Clover, MD, Dean, University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences
- Kristine M. Gebbie, DrPH, RN, Joan Grabe Dean, Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing, City University of New York
- James J. James, MD, DrPH, MHA, Director, Center for Public Health Preparedness and Disaster Response, American Medical Association
- Michael T. Handrigan, MD, FACEP, Senior Medical Advisor and Acting Director, Emergency Care Coordination Center, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
- Kraig E. Humbaugh, MD, MPH, Director, Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning, Kentucky Department of Public Health
- David Marozzi, MD, FACEP, Senior Medical Advisor, Office of Preparedness & Response Operations, Department of

Health and Human Services

- Kathleen Miner, PhD, MPH, MEd, CHES, Associate Dean for Applied Public Health, Emory University Rollins School of Public Health
- Vanessa Murphy, MPH, CHES, Public Health Preparedness Educator, Rensselaer County Department of Health, New York
- William J. Riley, PhD, Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Student Affairs, University of Michigan School of Public Health
- Steven J. Rottman, MD, Director and Adjunct Professor, Center for Public Health and Disasters, University of California at Los Angeles School of Public Health
- Kenneth W. Schor, CAPT, MC, USN, DO, MPH, Assistant Professor of Preventive Medicine & Biometrics, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
- Peggy Wittie, PhD, MAG, Chief Epidemiologist, Health Care Services, Collin County Health Department, Texas
- Andrea Young, PhD, Senior Learning Officer, Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Liaison Craig Thomas, PhD, Chief, Outcome Monitoring and Evaluation Branch, Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

We Offer Our Condolences to the Gindi-Takla Family



Photo by Desiree Holland

We remember Newark Campus MPH student Odette A. Gindi-Takla, MB BCH,

who passed away suddenly on Sunday, April 26, 2009 due to complications associated with a chronic condition-- diabetes.

Odette was a physician in Egypt, her home country. She successfully passed all the required examinations and credentialing to begin and complete a residency in the United States to become a licensed physician in the USA. While she had not been selected for a residency program, she remained hopeful.

Odette was very passionate about education, public health and medicine. Her life-long ambition was to be a physician in the USA, and she hoped to combine her MPH with her medical degree to fulfill that dream. Odette had also completed her field work as part of an

internship at Essex County College (ECC), where she worked under the supervision of SPH, Rutgers University-Newark and ECC faculty member, Dr. Neil De Haan. She had applied for a grant for a substance abuse prevention project that she was developing that would target young people approximately ages 18 to 24. According to Dr. De Haan, Essex County College is currently waiting for news from Trenton's Division of Addiction Services as to whether or not the grant application has been approved. Odette was also an adjunct faculty member at Essex County College where she taught Biology.

Our sincere prayers go out to Odette's husband, Mr. Raouf Gindi-Takla, and her entire family.

- Yvette Holding-Ford

Alumni/
Alumnae

UPDATES

Claudia Garcia del Puerto, MD, MPH '06, is featured in one of the cover stories in this issue of the *Dean's Bulletin Board*. **Shivani Pathak, MPH '09**, has been accepted to the DrPH program at New York Medical College for fall of 2009. Also, she did a presentation for the Franklin Township Health Advisory Board at the Sampson Intermediate School, Somerset, NJ, May 29, 2009, about the causes/effects of over-

exposure to the sun, the variety of health problems - in addition to skin cancer - caused by overexposure, the different types of skin cancer, and preventative measures. She's also been asked to present on the same topic at various summer camps this year. **Alums:** Please email us to keep us informed of your work, achievements and progress in your respective areas of expertise (sph-alum-updates@lists.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, SPH faculty members who hold primary faculty appointments at collaborating institutions, and SPH students, staff and alumni/ae. 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

Audrey R. Gotsch, DrPH, CHES, was appointed co-chair of the Leadership Council for the Preparedness & Response Core Competency Development Project sponsored by ASPH and CDC. The competency model will provide a national standard of skills for public health professionals to demonstrate in preparedness and response situations. The project is in response to the 2006 Pandemic All-Hazards Preparedness Act. (Please see article page 2.)

Weichung Joe Shih, PhD, was appointed member of the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) Oversight Committee for the Workshop on Handling Missing Data in Clinical Trials. CNSTAT is part of the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, of the National Academies.

AWARDS

William Halperin¹, MD, MPH, DrPH, received a prestigious designation from the Council of the National Academy of Sciences for his outstanding service and ongoing commitment to healthcare.

Dr. Halperin, professor and chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, and professor and chair of the Department of Quantitative Methods at UMDNJ-School of Public Health, was named a lifetime National Associate of the Washington, DC, based National Research Council of the National Academies in Washington. He was honored for extraordinary contributions through pro-bono service to National Research Council and Institute of Medicine programs. Since 1982, Halperin has served on more than 15 National Research Council committees. He earned his medical degree from Harvard Medical School, as well as master's and doctoral degrees from Harvard School of Public Health.

Maryann Ella Wozniak², MPH student in Health Systems and Policy, is one of eight women selected as recipients for the 2009 Margaret Yardley Fellowship Award from the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC (The General Federation of Women's Clubs). The \$1,000.00 awards support each recipient's graduate education tuition and expenses. Maryann's pursuit of MPH and DO degrees, and her experience, demonstrated her excellent qualifications to the committee for this award. Maryann expresses her thanks to Drs. Derek Shendell and Marcia Sass for "being such inspirational professors!"

PUBLICATIONS

Kinzler WL, Prasad V, **Ananth CV³**; New Jersey-Placental Abruption Study Investigators. The effect of maternal thrombophilia on placental



Pictured in Thailand are Occupational Health and Ecological Risk Assessment workshop participants and leaders, including (1) Dr. Wattasit Siriwong, (2) Dr. Nancy Fiedler, (3) Dr. Somporn Kamolsiripichaiporn, (4) Dr. Joanna Burger, (5) Dr. Michael Gochfeld, (6) Dr. Mark Robson and (7) Dr. Robert Chapman.

abruption: histologic correlates. *J Matern Fetal Neonatal Med* 2009;22(3):243-48.

PRESENTATIONS

Glenn Paulson, PhD, presented *Local Preparedness Needs and Preparedness for WMD Incidents, Natural Disasters, and Other Emergencies: The Current - and Sobering - U. S. Picture* as part of the Civil & Environmental Engineering Seminar, Frank L. Parker Distinguished Lecture Series, at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, April 20, 2009. The event was attended by over 75 faculty and graduate students.

Rod Turpin⁷, MS, RPIH, presented two posters at the 48th Navy Marine Corps Public Health Center (NMCPHC) Conference, Hampton, VA, March 22-26, 2009; Poster #1 - *Evolution of the US National Response System: From the 1968 NCP to the 2008 NRF* (coauthors Glenn Paulson, PhD; Dave Mickunas, US EPA-Environmental Response Team); Poster #2 - *Using Operational Risk Management for Incident Action Plan Safety Analysis* (coauthors Cris D'Onofrio and Craig Beasley, RPIH, US EPA) - this poster won the NMCPHC 1st Place Blue Ribbon in the Informational-Industrial Hygiene Category.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Joanna Burger⁴, PhD, MS, Michael Gochfeld⁵, MD, PhD, and Nancy Fiedler³, PhD, participated in a week-long series of workshops on Occupational Health and Ecological Risk Assessment at Chulalongkorn University (CU) in Bangkok, Thailand, March 13-22, 2009. The workshops, organized by **Mark Robson^{5,6}, PhD, MPH '95, MS**, included giving a series of lectures on general principles and specific problems in environmental and occupational health as well as formal and informal meetings with graduate students. The workshops are sponsored under the International Training and Research in Environmental and Occupational Health (ITREOH) program of the National Institutes of Health's Fogarty Foundation for international capacity building, through a grant to UMDNJ-School of Public Health; Dr Robson is PI,

Drs. Burger and Gochfeld are co-investigators. Drs. Burger, Gochfeld, Fiedler, Robson, and CU-College of Public Health's **Robert Chapman⁷, MD, MPH**, also a co-investigator, are SPH faculty in Environmental and Occupational Health. Drs. Siriwong and Kamolsiripichaiporn, pictured above with SPH faculty and Thai participants, are faculty members at CU and ITREOH co-investigators.

The trip also included field work to assess the potential for research on pesticide and other chemical exposure (including from fish consumption).

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Heather Jordan^{2,8}, MPH, staff member and SPH doctoral student, gave birth to a baby girl, Clare Rose, on April 13, 2009 at 5:00am. Clare was born at 6 lbs, 14 oz and 19 3/4 in. Congratulations to Heather and family!

Irina Grafova, PhD, assistant professor of Health Systems and Policy, gave birth to a baby girl, Anna Sophia Rozenbom (below), on April 7, 2009 at 7:57am. Anna was born at 7 lb, 7 oz and 20 1/4 in. Congratulations to Irina and family!



¹ UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

² Student

³ UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

⁴ RU-Division of Life Sciences

⁵ RU-School of Environmental & Biological Sciences

⁶ Alumnus

⁷ Adjunct Faculty

⁸ Staff Member

Vaccine Preventable Diseases: Evidence/Strategies to Protect Our Communities

Monday, July 13, 2009 - This one-day conference will focus on issues related to immunizations required for NJ children. Specific presentations: increasing immunization requirements, consequences of specific vaccine-preventable diseases without vaccination, compliance & enforcement of regulations, and strategies to increase compliance. Locations: Montclair State University, Monmouth University, and Cumberland County College. Contact: Juana Canela at canelaju@umdnj.edu or call 732-235-4958.



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TOTE BAG (\$10) - Detail: black bag, all white SPH and partner logos, carrying handles and adjustable shoulder strap

Purchase at SPH, 683 Hoes Lane W, Piscataway, from Michelle Kennedy, Room 121, Phone 732.235.5512, kennedmv@umdnj.edu

BUY ALL THREE FOR \$30!



(ALUMNA continued from page 1)

Nursing (LPN) Program, the first of its kind in the US. Using her medical, public health, health education, and Hispanic backgrounds, she created the curriculum comprised of several bilingual (English/Spanish) courses. Currently, Claudia teaches Bilingual Medical Terminology and three offerings of Bilingual Human Anatomy and Physiology With Lab Demo. During the program's first year, she also taught Bilingual Clinical Lab.

The first group of Bilingual LPN (BLPN)

students started July 30, 2007 and the first class completed the 18-month curriculum on January 23, 2009. On March 26, 2009, HHS-BMS celebrated the pinning and lamp lighting ceremony of the first graduating class, which was aired in the program "de Costa a Costa" on HITN TV on April 13, 2009. The photo below was taken at the ceremony of the second BLPN class, which was held May 5, 2009.

Claudia speaks highly of the graduates and this "pioneering" program. "The majority of these graduates are planning to further develop their skills and knowledge by becoming Registered

Nurses. This unique program benefits the Hispanic students with a profession that broadens their horizons and improves their knowledge, and at the same time, gives them the confidence to succeed. And most of all, the Bilingual LPN program is providing New Jersey with a select group of health care professionals that are able to serve, understand, and communicate with the Hispanic population, a key step to reduce health disparities among Hispanics."

Additionally as a faculty member at HHS-BMS, Claudia coordinates the collaboration of the bilingual students with community organizations in offering free blood pressure clinics and health fairs, and in preparing and giving educational health presentations. She also is in charge of developing the Pandemic Influenza Plan for the five campuses -- Ramsey, Nutley, Hackensack, Paterson and Paramus -- of Eastwick Colleges.

Claudia was also featured in the UMDNJ '05-'06 Annual Report as a student of SPH. To view, use the url listed below: <http://www.umdnj.edu/about/annualrep/2006/9.htm>.



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