

HEALTHVIEWS

FALL 2019 VOLUME 17

50 YEARS OF
PUBLIC
HEALTH
1970 - 2020



IGNITE

THE CAMPAIGN FOR UIC

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Inside This Issue

50 Years of Public Health

Engaging for Health Equity and Action

Gates Foundation Funds Water Project



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



The School of Public Health is one of seven health sciences colleges at UIC providing a system-wide approach to healthcare.



AT LEFT Photo was taken by Cortney Alleyne, MPH candidate in Community Health Sciences, who traveled to Bawjiase, Ghana, in the summer of 2017. Alleyne taught math, science and reading at a local orphanage, where she also developed and facilitated public health seminars. "In this moment, nothing else mattered," Alleyne said. "Peace and joy found her—even amongst the chaos. She realized there's no life better than hers."

HEALTHVIEWS

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EDITOR

Sara Giloth

WRITERS

Sanjib Basu
Chrissy Brown
Jacqueline Carey
Marcus Dillender
Sara Giloth

Alyson Lofthouse
Naoko Muramatsu
Sharon Parmet
Emily Pasteris
Chelsea Peters

Rob Schroeder
Julie Sevig
Margaret Sietsema
Daniel P. Smith

ART DIRECTION AND DESIGN

Jill McClain, Design 23

PRINTING

Active

Healthviews magazine is published by the Office of Advancement in the UIC School of Public Health. The school is dedicated to protecting and improving the health of people in Chicago, across the nation and around the world. To this end, UIC SPH faculty, staff, students and alumni are reaching out to local communities, city and state officials, and international partners with cutting-edge research, community-based health services and groundbreaking public health policy.



The UIC School of Public Health is committed to preserving the environment. This publication is printed on post-consumer recycled paper using biodegradable ink.

DEAN'S DESK



Have you heard? The UIC School of Public Health will be turning 50 years old in 2020! As Dean of the School of Public Health, I'm excited to celebrate this milestone anniversary and encourage all members of our community to join me in commemorating all that we've been able to accomplish since 1970. We officially kicked off our year of celebrating on October 23, 2019. I was honored to have our two previous deans, Drs. Susan Scrimshaw and Paul Brandt-Rauf, join me for a panel discussion on *The Past, Present and Future of Public Health*. See page 37 for photos from that amazing night!

Also in this issue of *Healthviews*, and highlighted on the cover, you'll read about the accomplishments that the School of Public Health has achieved over the past 50 years (see pages 3-6). Just as important as looking back on what we've been able to accomplish is looking ahead to where we want to be in the next 50 years! We're very proud of the future of our Doctor of Public Health Leadership Program, which you can read about on pages 7-8. Another exciting development at our school is the redesigning and formalizing of a center to facilitate efforts in community engagement and public health practice (see pages 9-11).

The National Scope/Global Impact section of the magazine is one of my favorites because I am able to get a glimpse of what our students and faculty are doing around the world. Our school is known for its Global Health Program, so check out pages 17-19 to read about one of our projects in Kenya that is being funded by the Gates Foundation to expand and test an innovative clean drinking water system.

None of our work is possible without the generous support of alumni and friends, and we're happy to recognize so many donors to IGNITE: the Campaign for UIC. Check out pages 24-29 for a listing of everyone who has supported the campaign thus far. We know that our ambitious goal of \$85 million for the School of Public Health will be met before the campaign ends. See the Advancing Health section, where you'll read about the power of philanthropy. If you are interested in learning more about the IGNITE campaign, please feel free to reach out to the Office of Advancement. They are happy to answer any questions you have. If you've already donated to the school, I can't thank you enough.

Lastly, I hope you'll take a moment to check out the Class Acts pages of the magazine to see the many ways our alumni and friends were engaged with the school over the past year. I hope to see you at one of our events in the coming year as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary!

Wayne H. Giles, MD, MS
Dean

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What is the most significant public health achievement over the past 50 years?

Members of the UIC SPH community weigh in...

“Women today have better access to healthcare services that benefit family planning. Services that allow for prevention of pregnancy-related health risks, reducing infant mortality, and reducing adolescent pregnancies. They also include access to preferred contraceptive methods and enabling individuals to make informed decisions regarding their reproductive health.”



NATALIA GALLEGOS, MPH '15
CO-CHAIR, SPH ALUMNI COUNCIL
PROGRAM MANAGER, STRATEGIC INITIATIVES, REACH,
RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

“I think that the importance of occupational health and safety is often overlooked, but has definitely created a significant public health impact over the years. Policies regarding safer working conditions have reduced work-related injuries by enforcing employers to create an environment free of serious hazards. It has also promoted labor rights that empowered workers and protected them from exploitation.”



YSABELLE BURGOS, BA '18
MPH CANDIDATE,
HEALTH POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

“Over the past 50 years, the field of public health has been a leader in elevating the social determinants of health as major contributors to health disparities. On an international scale, public health professionals have also led the way in mobilizing efforts to prevent, identify and treat HIV-related diseases.”



SEAN MULDOON, MD, MPH '86
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER
KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC.

“U=U, undetectable = untransmittable, is one of our most significant public health advances. The realization that treating those living with HIV can help prevent poor health outcomes, but also prevent the spread of HIV has changed the lives of so many.”



SANTINA WHEAT, MD, MPH '10
PROGRAM DIRECTOR
NORTHWESTERN MCGAW
FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY,
HUMBOLDT PARK
MEDICAL DIRECTOR LENDING HANDS FOR LIFE,
ERIE FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS

“The most significant public health achievement in the past 50 years has been the acknowledgment and mass acceptance of racism as a structural determinant of health. This was no small feat and more work needs to be done. But, recognizing the pervasive effects of racism on health is a necessary springboard for interventions aimed at dismantling it and other systems of oppression.”



UCHECHI A. MITCHELL, PHD, MSPH
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES

“Public health is such an exciting and dynamic field; there have been a host of remarkable advances over the past half century. In my career, the most significant advances have been in behavior change interventions that identify and engage groups at risk for a wide variety of public health problems. Such approaches have been utilized by the Community Outreach Intervention Projects and have resulted in major advances in reducing HIV risk behaviors in Chicago, the United States and internationally.”



WAYNE WIEBEL, PHD
PROFESSOR EMERITUS IN EPIDEMIOLOGY
FOUNDER, COMMUNITY OUTREACH
INTERVENTION PROJECTS

50 YEARS of Impact



With the passage of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965, tens of millions of Americans gained access to formal health care systems. With the rise in patient care came demand for public health professionals to provide a scientific basis for decision-making in health services. At the same time, the ongoing Civil Rights Movement and the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago brought into focus social, economic and health inequities plaguing American society.

In 1970, with its fledgling mission borne from these events preceding it, the State of Illinois’ first fully accredited school of public health launched at what was then known as the University of Illinois Medical Center, Chicago. Fifty years onward, the UIC School of Public Health remains the only fully accredited school of public health in the state.

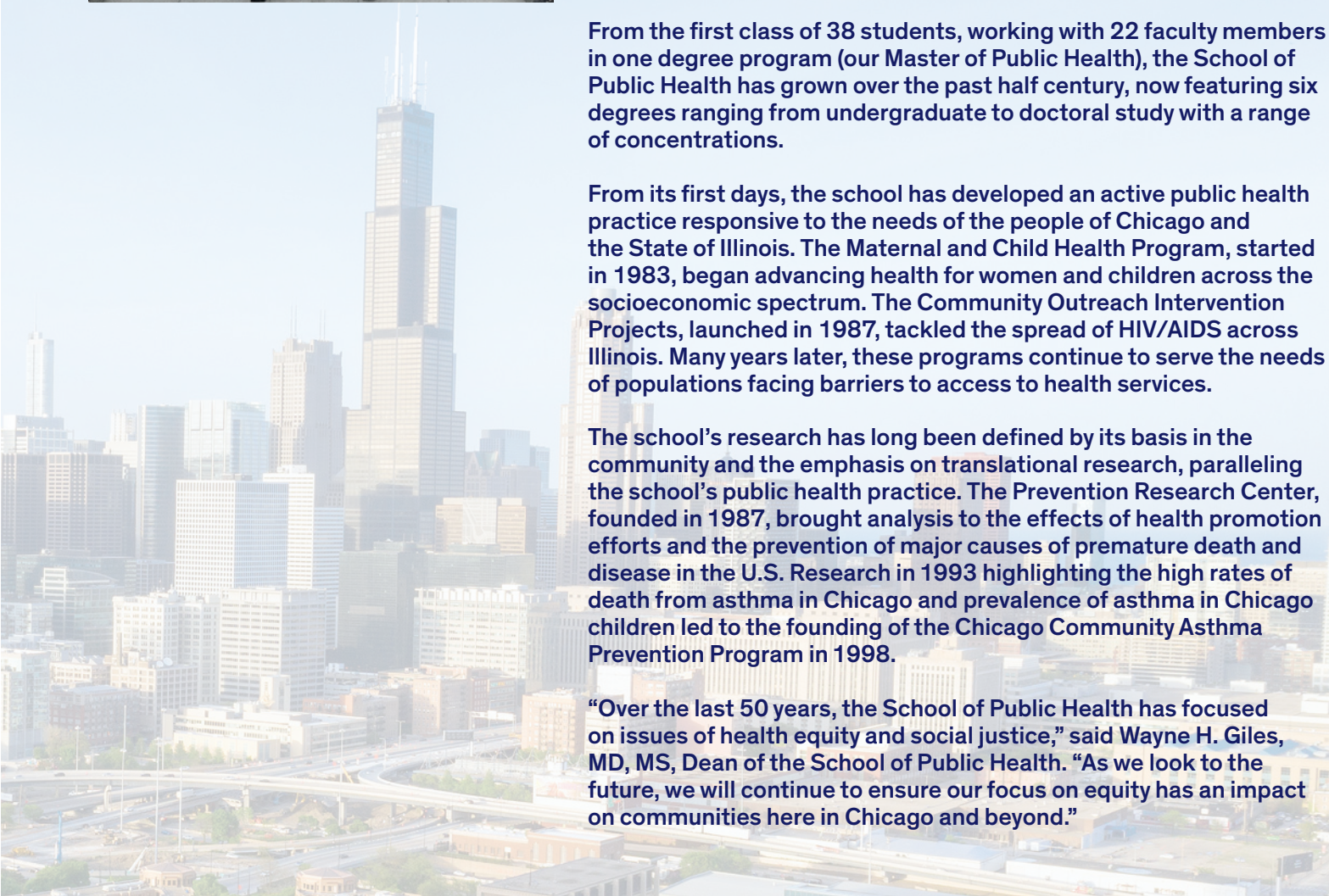
It’s a nice accolade, but a better calling card is the school’s history of meeting the evolving public health needs of communities in Chicago and around the globe.

From the first class of 38 students, working with 22 faculty members in one degree program (our Master of Public Health), the School of Public Health has grown over the past half century, now featuring six degrees ranging from undergraduate to doctoral study with a range of concentrations.

From its first days, the school has developed an active public health practice responsive to the needs of the people of Chicago and the State of Illinois. The Maternal and Child Health Program, started in 1983, began advancing health for women and children across the socioeconomic spectrum. The Community Outreach Intervention Projects, launched in 1987, tackled the spread of HIV/AIDS across Illinois. Many years later, these programs continue to serve the needs of populations facing barriers to access to health services.

The school’s research has long been defined by its basis in the community and the emphasis on translational research, paralleling the school’s public health practice. The Prevention Research Center, founded in 1987, brought analysis to the effects of health promotion efforts and the prevention of major causes of premature death and disease in the U.S. Research in 1993 highlighting the high rates of death from asthma in Chicago and prevalence of asthma in Chicago children led to the founding of the Chicago Community Asthma Prevention Program in 1998.

“Over the last 50 years, the School of Public Health has focused on issues of health equity and social justice,” said Wayne H. Giles, MD, MS, Dean of the School of Public Health. “As we look to the future, we will continue to ensure our focus on equity has an impact on communities here in Chicago and beyond.”



Getting STARTED

1972

The School of Public Health admits its first class of 38 students. The Master of Public Health degree launches as the school's first academic program.



1974

The School of Public Health is granted its first full accreditation.

1975

The Master of Science program admits its first students.

1976

The Doctor in Public Health Leadership (DrPH) degree launches.

1977

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programs are inaugurated at the school.

1987

The Community Outreach Intervention Projects (COIP) is launched, serving the needs of people with HIV/AIDS and injection drug users. COIP begins its mission of conducting research on health promotion efficiency.

Leadership in PUBLIC HEALTH

1970

The University of Illinois Board of Trustees approves establishing a **School of Public Health** at the Medical Center, Chicago.

Dr. Paul Q. Peterson, deputy surgeon general of the U.S. Public Health Service, is appointed the school's first dean.

1991

The Illinois Public Health Leadership Institute becomes the first state-based, federally funded public health leadership institute in the nation.

1995

The Chicago Project for Violence Prevention begins to apply a public health approach to addressing an epidemic of violence in Chicago neighborhoods.

1998

The Community Asthma Prevention Program is created, implementing a community-based peer educator program to decrease risk factors.

2000

The AIDS International Training and Research Program begins offering intensive AIDS research training to masters and doctoral candidates.

2014

The Black Lung Center of Excellence is established to provide medical expertise and medical legal services to providers, clinics, advocacy organizations and governmental agencies whose main goal is the care for coal miners.

2016

The Center for Healthy Work is established as one of six Centers of Excellence for Total Worker Health to advance the health and wellbeing of workers in Chicago, Illinois and the nation.

50 YEARS of Impact

HIV/AIDS

Judith Levy, PhD, associate professor of health policy and administration, tackles the "forgotten 10 percent" of new AIDS cases among older adults, developing education programming in senior centers and public housing in 1986.



In 1987, Wayne Wiebel, PhD, professor of epidemiology, launches the Community Outreach Intervention Projects, employing community members as outreach workers, to address shared use of drug paraphernalia among injection drug users driving the spread of HIV/AIDS in Illinois.

Time magazine cites research in Kenya by Robert Bailey, PhD, professor of epidemiology, on the impact of male circumcision in reducing transmission of HIV, as contributing to the #1 medical breakthrough in 2007.



Air Quality

SPH professors Peter Scheff, PhD, and Richard Wadden, PhD, pioneer air quality modeling in 1991 that identifies how surface winds over Lake Michigan transport ozone from one location to another.

Asthma

Dr. Victoria Persky, professor of epidemiology, launches the Community Asthma Prevention Program in 1998, a citywide alliance of residents, health professionals, local agencies and public health institutions fostering self-empowerment in combating asthma.



Health Promotion

Beginning in 1996, SPH's Illinois Prevention Research Center begins diabetes and hypertension community risk reduction programs in Chicago schools.

The Illinois Public Health Preparedness Center launches in 2000, led by Dr. Bernard Turnock, to measure and improve preparedness of the public health workforce in Illinois.

Occupational and Environmental Health

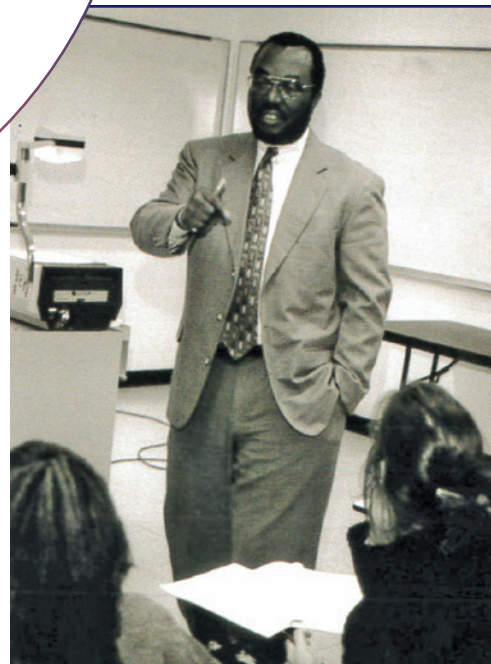
In 1996, the World Health Organization (WHO) designates SPH's Great Lakes Center for Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health as the WHO's first Collaborating Center in Occupational and Environmental Health.

Diversity and Inclusion

In 1989, Shaffdeen Amuwo, PhD, associate dean for community, government and alumni affairs, earns federal funding to support minority students pursuing careers in public health. SPH becomes a leader in developing minority doctoral graduates.

Children's Health

In 1988, the Maternal and Child Health Program conducts the first Child Health Needs Assessment ever performed in the State of Illinois.





Frank Borgers, PhD, clinical assistant professor of health policy and administration

“My hope is that the emphasis on public health perspective and the significance of social determinants will continue to strengthen over the next 50 years, to the point where our organizational and professional silos recede and we learn and practice healthcare in a holistic, multi-dimensional fashion that embraces public health as a foundational framework.”



Christina Welter, DrPH, clinical assistant professor of health policy and administration

“In 50 years, public health will be an equity leader, known most for the public in public health. Our expertise will be not only a science of topical disciplines but also a science of authentic engagement, capacity building and collective action toward transformational change. Health will not be about our choices; it will be about co-creating inclusive and equitable opportunities for everyone in every way.”



Shambreia McBrayer, MPH in Health Policy and Administration '15

“Public health is aggressively working toward being at the forefront of innovation and change in healthcare. Fifty years from now, public health will be innovation, transformation, new technology and research. Public health will lead the pack in helping populations of people achieve optimal health and quality of life.”



Sumbul Shakeel, BA in Public Health student

“I think public health in the future will have a larger role in healthcare and will help encourage more preventive measures. Hopefully there will be more collaboration and communication between medical and public health professionals. Most importantly, I think shifts in policies will help make it easier to implement public health solutions.”

What will public health look like 50 years from now?



Stephanie DeFlorio-Barker, MPH in Epidemiology '10, PhD in Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology '15

“I expect that public health will be much more ‘mainstream’ than it was even 10 years ago. As an undergrad student, I had to Google what an MPH was since none of my mentors were really familiar with it, and now already there are so many more public health programs for undergrads.”



Rosalyn Matthews, DrPH '16

“I see public health leaders advancing the use of surveillance data to tackle the wicked emerging public health problems we will face in the future. I believe that capturing health data via electronic devices such as personal trackers, Fitbits and smart watches could be used in conjunction with listening and learning from the very individuals we seek to serve. This has the potential to greatly improve the health and well-being of populations.”



Colin Hendrickson, MPH in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences student

“I would like to think that in 50 years’ time, we can be looking further into how we can better address climate change and look back at the lack of action we’re taking now and prove again how serious the need is to be taking these research steps and taking action, and that we can use that to always advocate for more research and more funding.”



Danielle Moore, Master of Healthcare Administration student

“I believe that in 50 years, technology will have taken over healthcare. Patients will have more control over medical decisions and access to care via the use of smart phones, telemedicine and virtual digital assistants. I believe that this advancement in technology will decrease the impact of disease, make for more affordable care and ultimately, the need for hospitalizations will fade away.”

Linking Science and Practice

Among the largest such programs in the world, UIC’s DrPH in Leadership program continues innovating and inspiring

While working in public health, including a 20-year career with the Chicago Department of Health, Dr. Patrick Lenihan saw a tradition-bound field struggling to make transformative change, desperately needing a more enterprising, critical-thinking mindset to take hold.

UIC School of Public Health (SPH) leadership identified the same gap. That shared recognition made for a perfect marriage back in 2005 as SPH revised its Doctor of Public Health in Leadership (DrPH) degree program and tapped Lenihan, then an SPH adjunct faculty member, as director of the program. He was tasked to bridge the long-standing gap between the science of academia and public health practice by pioneering an effort to transform the DrPH Program into one that combined leadership skills with the evidence base of practice and injected fresh thinking into the public health sector.

“If we’re going to address some of the most challenging public health issues, then we can’t rely on the thinking that caused those problems in the first place,” Lenihan says. “Different results require thinking and acting differently.”

Under Lenihan’s charge for the last 14 years, UIC’s DrPH program has developed a national reputation for its innovative curriculum, serving as a model for other DrPH programs and propelling scores of mid-career public health professionals to craft new, more effective realities in a field yearning for impactful solutions.

“We’re proud to say that our students are solving messy real-world problems, not just addressing esoteric questions removed from the reality of practice,” Lenihan says. “For public health to raise the stature of its scientific basis, it needs leadership to make science more relevant to real-world problems. Our DrPH program is accomplishing just that.”

BUILDING A WINNING PROGRAM

As SPH leaders began evaluating the purpose and relevance of the School’s existing DrPH degree in the early 2000s, they noticed a program largely disconnected from a scholarship that would resonate with practice in the evolving public health field. They also saw a program emphasizing technical skills, yet devoid of the necessary leadership skills that would empower students in leadership positions—most of them mid-career professionals holding full-time positions—to drive change in their respective corners of the public health world.

SPH overhauled its DrPH degree in 2005, unveiling a revised program rooted in three pillars—adaptive leadership, evidence-based public health and experience-based learning. According to Lenihan: “You can only learn so much in the classroom. Learning to solve wicked real-world problems requires that the practice setting becomes the classroom and that experience becomes the teacher.”

SPH replaced the typical doctoral exams with a portfolio in which students were charged to demonstrate mastery of their abilities in using leadership to generate and apply knowledge to real-world issues in practice. Mastery of that knowledge base included an in-depth understanding of core areas of public health practice, research and theory; leveraging various assessments and measures to analyze issues; and crafting a vision for leadership incorporating systems thinking and ethical principles.



Nonye Harvey (second from left), Christina Welter (second from right) and Patrick Lenihan (far right) celebrate with DrPH graduates at the 2019 commencement ceremony.

“Using leadership skills, we join science and practice together to create cross-sector collaboration and approach problems in novel ways” Lenihan explains.

While eight students comprised the initial DrPH cohort, the program grew in each subsequent year. In 2010, however, SPH embraced a distance-based format for the degree, a shift that invited a more diverse pool of students into a highly desirable doctoral program that quickly grew in reputation nationally as well as globally.

“Taking the DrPH online allowed us to create a program that was more sustainable and capable of making impact at scale,” Lenihan says.

Today, with more than 100 students in its pipeline, UIC’s DrPH is one the largest such programs in the U.S. SPH receives upwards of 120 applications each year from public

...continued from page 7

health professionals currently employed by governmental agencies, professional associations, academia, industry, non-profits, the military and healthcare providers from across the nation and internationally. More than 40 students, meanwhile, have completed their practice-based dissertation. Half of those dissertations have earned publication in scholarly journals while others have been selected for presentation at professional meetings hosted by the likes of the American Public Health Association.

“There’s a hunger out there among working professionals entering leadership ranks of public health organizations to expand their toolkit to tackle some of the most pressing problems facing the field, which have defied more technically oriented approaches of the past,” Lenihan says.

INSPIRING PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERS

Empowered by a strong foundation for evidence-based public health practice, DrPH students have fueled tangible change in the world—increasing access to services in rural Ethiopia, implementing statewide performance management systems and bolstering engagement among the public health workforce.

Already 17 years into his career with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Dr. David Reynen (DrPH ‘16) began his DrPH studies in 2011, eager to broaden his perspective and develop leadership skills that could generate new professional opportunities. Reynen says the DrPH program helped him better understand the interrelated nature of public health systems and provided necessary skills to address overlooked areas.

“I love hearing that students and alumni are approaching problems differently because of their DrPH education, that they’re becoming adaptive leaders as opposed to simply better technicians.” —Dr. Patrick Lenihan

Propelled by his DrPH work, for instance, Reynen helped optimize operations at the California Stroke Registry (CSR) by spearheading the creation of cross-functional teams, reorganizing the division of labor, delivering a new management information system, and identifying credible external partners who could help CSR achieve its objectives.

“I learned to systematically reflect on the status quo in order to move the system forward,” Reynen says, noting that his efforts with CSR led to his current role as chief of maternal

and perinatal epidemiology with CDPH’s Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Division. “The DrPH was the best professional decision I made in my life. It revitalized me and motivated me to work hard on problems that are pressing and persistent in order to improve the state’s health.”

Dr. Nonye Harvey (DrPH ‘19), a public health advisor with the National Cancer Institute (NCI), says she was “itching” to do more and evolve her leadership skills when she enrolled in the DrPH program in 2014. Throughout her DrPH studies, Harvey consistently applied classroom lessons to her practice. Her dissertation, in fact, investigated facilitators and barriers to data sharing in NCI-funded research, efforts that spurred a set of recommendations for enhancing data-sharing practices in biomedical research.

“The DrPH program set me up to approach a problem from a systems view and to do so in a nimble way that gets to the underlying issue and helps identify solutions and strategies to move complex problems forward,” says Harvey, who leads strategic planning for her group and serves as executive director of the NCI Cohort Consortium that pursues scientific breakthroughs by promoting collaboration among 60 member epidemiology cohorts.

For Lenihan, it’s these tales that prove so rewarding.

“I love hearing that students and alumni are approaching problems differently because of their DrPH education, that they’re becoming adaptive leaders as opposed to simply better technicians,” he says.

With Lenihan’s retirement on May 31, longtime associate program director Dr. Christina Welter (DrPH ‘10) has been appointed interim director. Welter intends to keep the program’s fingers “on the pulse of the field” and to meet the needs of students as well as public health practice, which is increasingly challenging its professionals to do more with less.

“The foundation of our program is a curriculum that doesn’t look at simple solutions, but rather digs deeper and explores different opportunities and pathways for change,” Welter says. “As our students are active practitioners facing complex issues, we’ll continue working to increase their capacity through evidence building.”

In the coming years, that work will broaden when SPH debuts its Global DrPH program, another pioneering step for the enterprising program. “Wherever our students might be, we want them empowered to investigate different methods, tools and resources to tackle a problem,” Welter says.

After all, critical thinking is what the public health field needs now more than ever. ●



Community Ties

Looking to build upon its legacy of community engagement, SPH crafts plans to broaden and deepen its engagement across research, teaching and practice

Like so many at UIC’s School of Public Health, Linda Forst has community engagement top of mind. As a professor of environmental and occupational health sciences, her research work has taken her to migrant farm workers across four states and day laborers across seven states. She’s presently involved in a participatory research project in the Center for Healthy Work alongside colleagues Jeni Hebert-Beirne, Preethi Pratap and Lorraine Conroy examining the relationship between employment and health in two Chicago communities riddled with social and economic hardships.

In her role as senior associate dean, Forst accepted Dean Wayne H. Giles’ charge to further enliven, broaden, and strengthen community engagement at the School of Public Health. Forst, in fact, spearheaded early efforts to investigate the school’s engagement across its research, teaching and practice activity, including the proposed launch of a redesigned center focused on the process of engagement, participation and equity.

“Our mission is to improve the health, well-being and quality of life of the public, and that’s something that can’t be developed inside a closed lab on campus. That’s why we’re engaging with populations, leaders and advocates to find ways to create healthier communities,” Forst said.

DEEP COMMUNITY TIES

The School of Public Health has a long and distinguished history of community engagement with public health departments, governmental agencies, not-for-profits and grassroots organizations committed to improving human health.

Samuel Dorevitch, an associate professor of environmental and occupational health sciences, for instance, has teamed with the Chicago Park District to test water at beaches and provide messaging around safe swimming. Hebert-Beirne, an associate professor in the Division of Community Health Sciences, led a nearly decade-long, student-engaged research effort examining how residents of Chicago’s Little

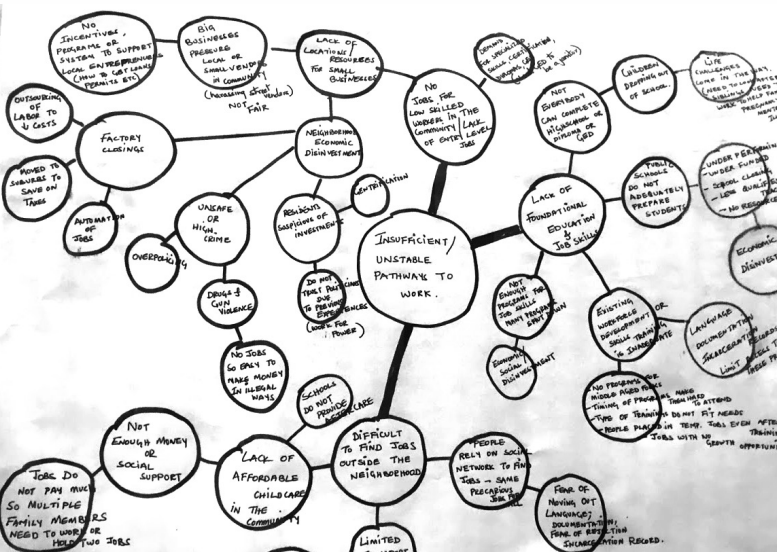
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NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITMENT

Village neighborhood, an immigrant-heavy community just southwest of the UIC campus, perceive community health needs and assets. This deeply collaborative, award-winning effort has since expanded to Chicago's North Lawndale neighborhood using community-based participatory research strategies. Numerous faculty, meanwhile, are investigating environmental health and equity issues on Chicago's south-east side alongside rooted community partners. "The impact of our research is strengthened by employing engagement strategies and fostering co-learning," Hebert-Beirne said.

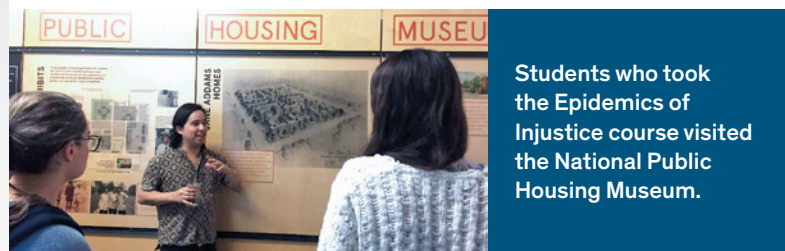
At the state level, SPH and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) have long been intertwined. Through the agency's collaborative student internship program, dozens of SPH students have worked with IDPH on projects related to critical issues such as infectious disease surveillance and opioid abuse. "UIC has been able to provide us well-trained students capable of quickly stepping in to help satisfy some pressing issues we're facing," IDPH Division of Laboratories Chief Matt Charles said, adding that IDPH has also leveraged faculty expertise to drive a number of its programs. "It's an undeniable advantage to have access to professionals who see things through a different lens and bring a different perspective."

Such community-minded work has proven particularly attractive to students, who value the opportunity to experience different public health spheres, apply their learning in real-world environments, and explore potential career possibilities. Fourth-year PhD student Cara Bergo, in fact, selected UIC precisely because of SPH's focus on



Preethi Lakshmi Pratap, research assistant professor of environmental and occupational health sciences, led a root cause analysis as part of the Greater Lawndale Healthy Work project. The Action Mapping process is used to build a road map for interventions.

“This effort, this center, is critical. It’s in line with, but expanding on, what other schools of public health and programs are doing nationally.” — Dr. Hebert-Beirne



applied epidemiology specializing in maternal and child health. “It was a big deal that UIC had a program that would get me working alongside county and state health agencies,” Bergo said.

Bergo has worked with the Illinois and Iowa state health departments while at UIC, meaningful experiences that have included examining maternal mortality and morbidity efforts, evaluating breast and cervical cancer programs and helping to produce an opioid vulnerability index. In the process, she has learned how to navigate large data sets and public sector bureaucracy while also discovering the importance of considering community impact before starting analysis. “And I don’t think I would have learned those things had I chosen a methodology-based program that wasn’t focused on community engagement like UIC is,” Bergo said.

BUILDING ON HISTORY

With SPH leadership eager to expand its focus on community engagement with both public health practitioners as well as the community at large, Forst led a yearlong effort that included assessing the school's existing community engagement activities, including the scope of the existing Coordinating Center for Public Health Practice (CCPHP) and the Mid-America Center for Public Health Practice (MCPHP), gathering insights from current community partners such as public health agencies and not-for-profits, and examining the work of peer institutions.

Hebert-Beirne and Caitlin Donato, program coordinator in the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Division, have since produced a lengthy report sharing key findings and introducing plans for a Center for Engaging for Health Equity and Action (CEHEA). A redesign of CCPHP, the CEHEA would support excellence in community-engaged research, highlight and harness faculty expertise, and provide funding, training and strategies to facilitate community engagement across SPH.

CEHEA also builds upon the work of MCPHP, which has a 20 year history leading community and partner engagement not only throughout Illinois, but in the 6 state Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) region, and nationally through workforce and leadership development. Assessment, planning and evaluation services, as well as and practice-based research, has also been at the core of MCPHP's mission to make public health organizations smarter, stronger and more effective. Working with partners at the state and local levels was an important strategy for MCPHP to build collaborative approaches to improve public health, but MCPHP rarely works at the ground level. "CEHEA complements MCPHP's long and robust history with partnership approaches by adding deeper and more engagement at the community level," said MCPHP's Director, Christina Welter.

"This effort, this center, is critical. It's in line with but expanding on what other schools of public health and programs are doing nationally," said Hebert-Beirne, who has since inherited the role of interim associate dean for community engagement.

The focus is presently on building upon the sound infrastructure established by the CCPHP to expand faculty, student, and staff members' opportunity to integrate engagement strategies and activities across their research, teaching, service, and practice work. To that end, SPH is very excited about the recent refunding of the UIC CDC-funded Prevention Research Center which is newly named the Policy, Practice and Prevention Research Center (P3RC). "The P3RC aims to work closely with its partners to build and translate evidence and strengthen leadership capacity to advance policies and practices that improve population health and equity," said Dr. Lisa Powell, Director of the P3RC. The P3RC core research project, led by Dr. Jamie Chiqui

Adriana Magana, community partner, and Courtney Canino (MPH '19) co-presented their group's work on root cause mapping, which was held at a space for community-based learning at Lawndale Christian Health Center.

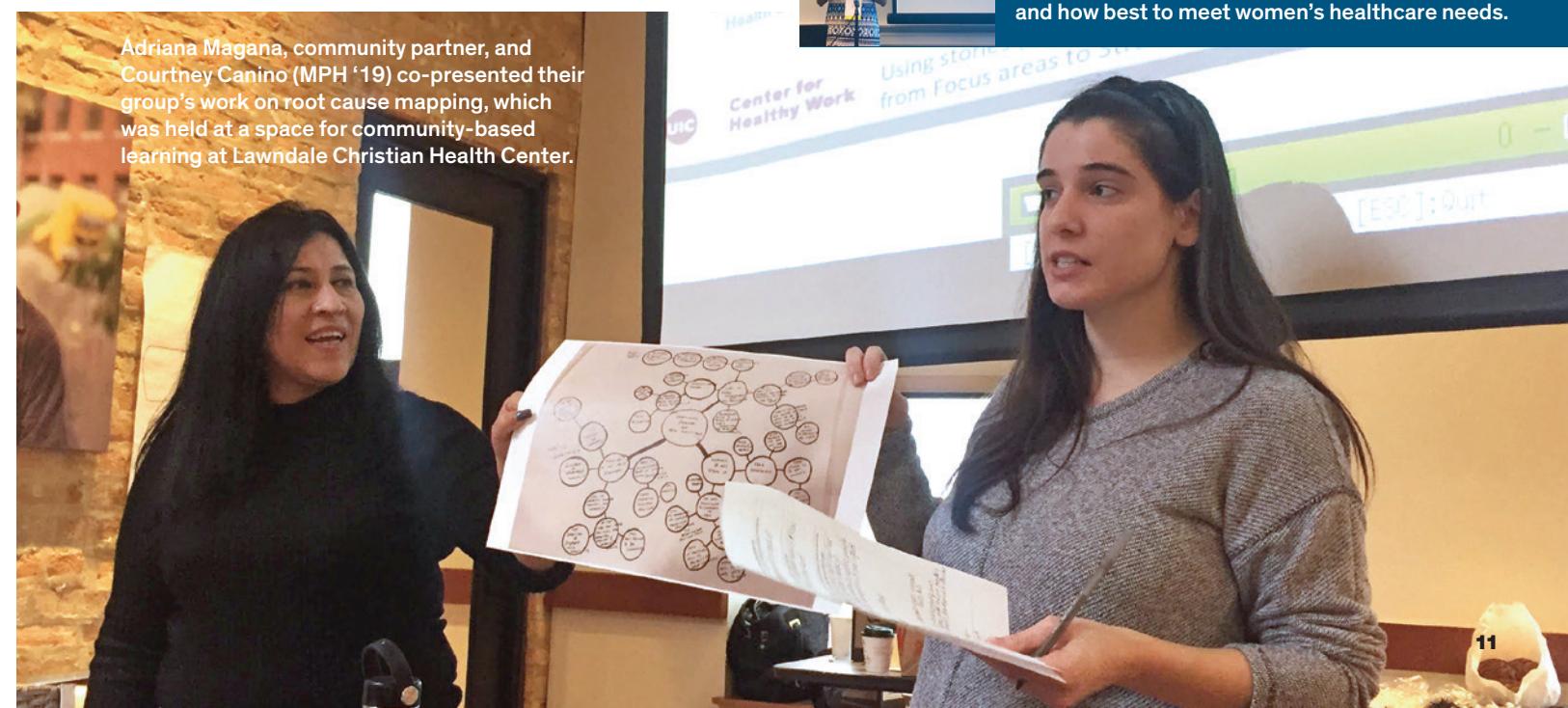
and partners at Chicago Public Schools (CPS), will build upon nearly a decade of collaboration between Chriqui and her team and CPS' Office of Student Health and Wellness to study the effectiveness of using a health-related navigator in implementing health education, health services, nutrition, and physical activity opportunities in CPS schools to provide better support for CPS students. "CPS is actually at the forefront of school health, wellness, and school nutrition," Chriqui noted. "I look forward to continuing this collaboration on important school- and student-level health and wellness-related issues."

A more coordinated, robust effort, Forst said, will help SPH elevate its standing with community partners, better align research and practice, establish SPH as a national leader in community engagement scholarship and maximize UIC's impact on the health and well-being of the public it's committed to serving. "We recognize that science needs to interact with people in the real world and so we want to be involved in the community right from the beginning," Forst said. "We want to take ownership of problems with our community partners and invest together in solutions that will have a real impact on peoples' lives because that's ultimately why we're here." ●

“It was a big deal that UIC had a program that would get me working alongside county and state health agencies.” —Cara Bergo, PhD student



Cara Bergo presenting findings for the evaluation of the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program. Cara has worked on the evaluation team for the Illinois Department of Public Health since 2016 to understand the changing demographics of the program and how best to meet women's healthcare needs.



DIVISION OF
HEALTH POLICY AND
ADMINISTRATION



EXAMINING THE
OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH AND SAFETY
OF WORKERS

Dr. Marcus Dillender is an assistant professor of health policy and administration. He is an economist whose research lies at the intersection of health, labor and public economics. His broad research interests include occupational health and the medical treatment that injured

workers receive, health insurance as a benefit for workers and healthcare labor markets. His past research projects have characterized the effect of temperature on workers' injury rates, shown how healthcare education and labor markets respond to Medicaid expansions and evaluated the impact of prior authorization requirements on the prescription drugs and medical care that injured workers receive. In other projects, he has studied the impact of mandates that employers offer health insurance to full-time workers on part-time employment and considered how the ability to obtain employer-sponsored health insurance coverage through a family member affects labor force participation.

With a colleague at the University of Texas, Dillender is currently using a dataset of workers' compensation claims from the state of Texas to study how various aspects of workers' compensation insurance affect the medical care and cash benefits that injured workers receive through the workers' compensation system. One study with this data set leverages a large increase in the maximum income benefits that claimants can receive if they have to miss work because of injuries to examine the impact of income benefit levels on claimant behavior. Dillender and his coauthor show that higher income benefits increase both claimants' time out of work and the amount of medical care claimants receive after an injury. The effect of income benefits on medical care has not previously been studied, and the findings suggest that claims are more responsive to income benefits than previously realized.

Another current study examines the impact of Mexican immigration to the United States on the occupational health and safety of U.S. natives. Along with a coauthor at Tufts University, Dillender first uses data on occupations' environments and tasks from the Occupational Information Network to create an index of occupational risk for each occupation. Using census, American Community Survey and Current Population Survey data, Dillender and his coauthor then show that as more Mexican immigrants move into a state, natives in that state work in safer jobs and have fewer occupational injuries. Thus, Mexican immigration appears to improve the occupational health and safety of U.S. natives. ●

DIVISION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL AND
OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH SCIENCES



USING RESPIRATORS
TO PROTECT
WORKER HEALTH

Dr. Margaret Sietsema is an assistant professor in environmental and occupational health sciences. She received her PhD from UIC in industrial hygiene in 2015, after which she spent a year as a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention Fellow at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), before returning to UIC as a research assistant professor from 2016 to 2019.

Sietsema's research focuses on two key areas—pandemic preparedness and real-time respirator fit methods and instrumentation. Since returning to UIC, Sietsema has continued to work with NIOSH and CDC colleagues on selection methods that prioritize respiratory protection for workers in high-risk categories during infectious disease outbreaks (e.g., pandemic influenza).

Sietsema's doctoral work focused on developing and testing new real-time methods for assessing respirator fit during simulated healthcare tasks. Since returning to UIC, she has expanded this research interest in several ways. With an SPH seed funding grant and in collaboration with colleagues at the University of Iowa and an instrument manufacturer, she has assessed an innovative wearable particle sensor that can be



easily deployed during work activities to assess real-time fit. She received a NIOSH innovation award to further validate this sensor. She plans to write a research project grant in the near future to undertake measurements of respirator fit during real-world workplace activities.

Another area of interest is podcasting to explore the broader impact of work on health.

In monthly episodes of "Bread + Roses," Sietsema and Dr. Julia Lippert, assistant professor of health sciences at DePaul University, dive deep into how public and corporate policies affect workers from a historical perspective. Named after a union slogan used during the 1912 textile strike, the podcast tries to demystify work and to build connections between different types of workers. To listen, visit [soundcloud.com](https://soundcloud.com/bread-roses) and search for Bread + Roses. ●

DIVISION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH
SCIENCES



IMPROVING CARE
AND HEALTH
OF DIVERSE AGING
POPULATIONS

Dr. Naoko Muramatsu, professor of community health sciences and fellow at the Institute for Health Research and Policy, conducts research that improves the quality of care and well-being of diverse aging populations. Trained in health services organization and

policy, sociology and population and organizational studies, she advances health equity by identifying critical factors that lead to disparities in stressors, resources and health over the life course and by intervening on those factors. Her research aims to improve care and health of frail older adults with limited resources, workers in precarious work conditions and people aging with disabilities and their caregivers in racial, ethnic and linguistic minority communities.

"Promoting Seniors' Health with Home Care Aides (Pro-Home)" is Muramatsu's ongoing project funded by the National Institute on Aging and conducted with a multidisciplinary research team. Pro-Home tests a home-based physical activity program among community-dwelling frail older adults who cannot participate in evidence-based physical activity recommended for those with higher physical function. This research project partners with caregivers, providers, care managers, community-based organizations and state agencies. The project empowers home care aides to bring a safe physical activity program to older, mostly African American and Latino recipients of Medicaid home care.

Muramatsu and her team have also demonstrated how state and community-level environments matter in vulnerable older adults, especially those with disabilities and limited family support. Multilevel analysis of 10-year national longitudinal survey data of older Americans showed that living in a state with higher levels of support for home and community-based services was associated with a lower risk of nursing home admission among childless older adults, higher likelihood of dying at home, and lower levels of depressive symptoms. Muramatsu's ongoing quantitative and qualitative research investigates the interplay among policies, societal norms, work, health and well-being in aging populations in the United States and other countries including Japan, home of the oldest population in the world.

Muramatsu facilitates dissemination and implementation of innovative, sustainable programs and helps societies prepare for unprecedented population aging. Muramatsu develops intellectually stimulating colearning environments for researchers, students and community partners and advances global research on aging, work and health in the context of ongoing technological innovations. ●



DIVISION OF
EPIDEMIOLOGY AND
BIostatISTICS



MONITORING TIME
TRENDS IN CANCER
INCIDENCE

Dr. Sanjib Basu is the Paul Levy and Virginia F. Tomasek Professor of Biostatistics. He also serves as the Director of the Center for Biostatistical Development and is the Lead for the Biostatistics Section of the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. He is a Fellow

of the American Statistical Association, an Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute, and President-Elect (2020) of the International Indian Statistical Association.

In the diverse spectrum of biostatistics, which spans from health sciences to statistical theory and methodology, the theme of Basu's research is to understand and to address the nontrivial biostatistical methodological problems underlying the health science studies. He has developed new approaches to monitoring time trends in cancer incidence and mortality by applying his research on cure models, mixture models and competing risk. His work on modeling cancer survival data from the Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) program compares with the CANSURV software of the National Cancer Institute. His methodological research on competing risks from other causes for cancer patients was funded by an award from the National Science Foundation.

Basu's research on epigenetics, which is the study of changes in gene functions that do not involve changes in the genetic code itself, and cancer outcomes was funded by the National Cancer Institute. His current interests include the big data problem of identifying differentially methylated regions of the genome and their mediating effects on cancer outcome. As a UI Cancer Center member, he has been involved with colleagues in proposing biostatistical approaches for understanding spatio-temporal aspects of social determinants of health on cancer outcomes.

Basu is part of several research teams at UIC. One such project is funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and is developing innovative biostatistical methods of identification and feature selection of weak effects, identifying causal pathways and understanding causal effects of environmental chemical mixtures. Basu is also working with UIC's Associate Vice Chancellor, Population Health Sciences Program Dr. Jerry Krishnan on biostatistical methods in pragmatic clinical effectiveness trials, and with the Institute for Healthcare Delivery Design on the Health Delivery System Transformation project, led by Dean Wayne H. Giles. ●

Can an app BOOST medication adherence by young HIV-positive gay black men?

A five-year, \$3.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health will enable researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health to refine and then further evaluate an avatar-based app that has shown promise in improving medication adherence among HIV-positive gay black men in a recently completed pilot study. The app, called My Personal Health Guide, allows users to obtain information about HIV and provides support for medication adherence from their cell phones in private.

“In our pilot trial of the app, users emphasized protecting their privacy regarding their HIV status and didn’t want features that were intrusive or that other people could see or hear,” says Dr. Mark Dworkin, professor of epidemiology in the UIC School of Public Health and principal investigator on the grant. “The app supports medication adherence by providing information spoken simply by a realistic avatar that explains why adherence is so important to their health. It also teaches about individual medications used to treat HIV, as well as their potential side effects. The app will be ‘gamified,’ as they say in the industry, meaning an educational game will be added so that the more you use it, the more features become unlocked, which may motivate sustained engagement with the app.”

HIV-positive gay black men have the lowest levels of retention in care and are less likely to achieve viral suppression, where levels of the HIV virus in the body reach undetectable levels. Having undetectable levels of the virus makes transmission to another person very unlikely and is a major principle of the concept that treatment really is part of prevention.

Dworkin and his colleagues developed the app to help improve adherence to antiretroviral medications, which need to be taken routinely and as prescribed in order to have the greatest effect on reducing viral load.



Dr. Mark Dworkin

The app has two major functions: to answer questions about HIV and medication adherence and to support behaviors that contribute to regularly taking medication on time. The avatar empathetically acknowledges the difficulty of taking medication daily for a lifetime and addresses issues such as social support, privacy and mental health that are affected by the stigma of HIV. This stigma can be a major barrier to seeking testing and treatment, Dworkin says. Since the avatar speaks with simple, clear language, it can be especially useful to patients with low literacy, and it uses culturally appropriate language and phrases derived from focus group work with this population of young men, Dworkin explains. It also invites users to hear advice and motivational stories from other HIV-positive individuals, as well as their caregivers, from the app.

During the first year of the new grant funding, Dworkin and his colleagues will incorporate feedback from participants in the pilot study, which included 43 HIV-positive gay men, to refine the app before testing it in a larger group of participants. Men in the pilot study, which entailed using the app for three months, had improved adherence—by taking their medication an average of 80 percent of the time, up from 62 percent of the time before using the app. Participants also reported that the app and its functions were acceptable and useful.

“There was also specific feedback we received that we will incorporate into the app in the first year of the grant,” Dworkin says.

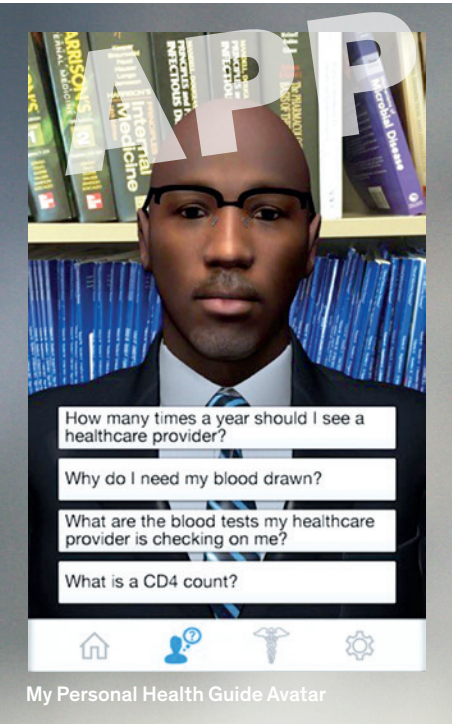
After refining the app and adding additional functionality based on user feedback, the 2.0 version of the app will be evaluated and compared with the use of a food safety app in a group of 295 HIV-positive gay black men in Chicago, Atlanta and Jackson, Mississippi.

Participants will be randomized to use either the My Personal Health Guide app or a food safety avatar-based app for six months. Antiretroviral therapy adherence will be evaluated over the course of a month prior to the start of the study before participants start using the apps. Electronic medication containers that send an encrypted alert to the researchers each time the container is opened—and presumably a dose of medication is taken—will help the researchers track medication adherence as objectively as possible. The electronic containers will be used by all participants for the duration of the study.

Once the study starts, medication adherence and clinic appointment data will be collected over six months, and viral load will be collected at baseline and follow-up. Dworkin and his colleagues believe that men using the My Personal Health Guide app will show improvements in adherence, viral load and keeping up with medical appointments compared with men using the food safety app.

The researchers will also identify which parts of the My Personal Health Guide app users engage with most, and which may be most closely linked to improvements in outcomes to help them further tailor the app to be more effective.

“Reducing viral load, and even better, getting to undetectable levels, is not only good for the individual, but it significantly helps reduce the risk of spreading the virus to others,” Dworkin says. “And because strict medication adherence provides the best chance to reduce viral load, any tools we can give people to stick to their meds will ultimately prevent new infections and also keep people healthy.” ●



Making a Difference in the Health of Populations Around the World

1 CHICAGO

Sampada Mudgalkar, an MPH student in Community Health Sciences with a Global Health Concentration, worked at the CDC Quarantine Station located at O'Hare airport, where she facilitated the development of a training plan that will help address public health related concerns encountered by airlines operating at the international terminal.



Sampada Mudgalkar

2 ST. KITTS

Gina Chapman, an MPH student in Community Health Sciences with a Global Health Concentration, went to St. Kitts and Nevis to work on a Community Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction Training program. This work built on a program originally created by Dr. Janet Lin in Haiti and a community disaster preparedness assessment that was conducted on the islands last year.



Gina Chapman

3 INDIA

Briona Phillips, an MPH student in Community Health Sciences with a Global Health Concentration, traveled to Jamkhed, India, where she worked with the Comprehensive Rural Health Project on establishing an oral health curriculum for children ages 4-11.



Briona Phillips

4 MEXICO

Dr. Mark Dworkin, professor of Epidemiology, attended the International AIDS Society 2019 Conference in Mexico City, where he presented on his National Institutes of Health-funded grant examining electronic medication adherence monitoring in young African American men who have sex with men living with HIV.

5 KENYA

Seven public health students spent their summer in Kisumu, Kenya, working on projects created by Drs. Robert Bailey, Sam Dorevitch and Supriya Mehta related to safe water access, reproductive health, community health assessments and chronic kidney disease.



6 PHILIPPINES

Ysabelle Burgos, an MPH student in Health Policy and Administration with a Global Health Concentration, traveled to the Philippines to work with Child Family Health International, where she investigated the local health system and its challenges.



Global Health Program Wins Grant from the Innovation Fund

The U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City and Partners of the Americas announced new grant winners in the latest 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund grant competition. The UIC School of Public Health's Global Health Program and its Office of Diversity and Inclusion, along with partner institution the Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública (National Institute of Public Health of Mexico), is one of eight winning partnerships. "Growing opportunities for more of our students to conduct an international field experience directly aligns with objectives in our school's new strategic plan," says Alyson Lofthouse, senior associate director of the global health program. "Additionally, we're excited to host more MPH students from Mexico."

The Innovation Fund is the U.S. Department of State's signature education initiative in the Western hemisphere region for leveraging commitments from public and private sectors, regional governments and higher education networks to expand academic mobility, strengthen regional education cooperation and enhance workforce development in the Americas. "What makes [the Fund] work so well here is the dedication of U.S. and Mexican institutions to work together for the benefit of students and faculty in both countries and the investment by private sector donors... to give them the resources to succeed," says Chargé d'Affaires John Creamer.

The fund inspires U.S. universities to team up with higher education institutions in Latin America to create partnerships to provide students with access to new exchange and training programs. These partnerships provide students with more opportunities to work in teams, gain skills, solve real-world problems and become better prepared for today's workforce.

This year's program at UIC SPH represents a joint effort to increase the racial/ethnic and economic diversity of graduate public health students who pursue global public health field experiences abroad. "We like to see the diversity of our student body reflected in the students who pursue international study and practice opportunities. This funding helps us achieve that goal," says Dr. Nadine Peacock, associate dean for diversity and inclusion. Students in the program will be matched with a project site based on their interests and qualifications in order to conduct an applied practice experience in collaboration with the partner institution.

This past summer, Lofthouse and Peacock facilitated an exchange for two MPH students: Vania Lara from Mexico and Sara Izquierdo, a second year student in UIC SPH's division of community health sciences. Lara worked on a diabetes education program at UIC's Midwest Latino Health Research, Training and Policy Center. She helped create a manual for

patients with diabetes in both English and Spanish, and ensured the Spanish version included culturally relevant details. She partnered with the Juan Diego Community Center, a grass roots organization on the South Side of Chicago, to evaluate the manual within the community and made changes based on feedback.



Carlos Eduardo Linares Reyes, chair, Department of Academic Exchange and International Liaison, and Dr. María Eugenia Ocampo Granados, Academic Dean, National Institute of Public Health, accepting the award at the award ceremony in Mexico City.

Izquierdo traveled to Cuernavaca to complete her applied practice experience where she learned about the health of migrants in transit through Mexico toward the United States. She was able to attend a forum on immigration at the Mexican senate in Mexico City, conducted field work at a migrant shelter and edited numerous papers and diagrams. As the daughter of an immigrant herself, Izquierdo says she hoped this experience would allow her to continue learning and contributing to the creation of solutions and promotion of health, both in Cuernavaca and when she returns to Chicago.

"The current program builds on a collaboration between UIC School of Public Health and Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública that was initiated in the summer of 2014," Lofthouse explains. "The funding we received from the Innovation Fund will help us expand this partnership and we're eager for this year's program to launch."



Vania Lara and Sara Izquierdo



**BILL AND MELINDA
GATES FOUNDATION
FUNDS
SOLAR-POWERED
WATER TREATMENT
PROJECT IN KENYA**

Colin Hendrickson, MPH student in environmental and occupational health sciences, stands by the water tanks he used for his project. In his hands are samples of the dirty river water and the clean water he disinfected.

The UIC School of Public Health has received a grant from Grand Challenges Explorations, an initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to study the expansion and testing of a clean drinking water system in two informal urban settlements located in Kisumu, a city of 500,000 people in Kenya. Dr. Samuel Dorevitch, associate professor at the UIC School of Public Health, principal investigator on the grant, traveled to Kenya this summer to continue working on this project, which was started in 2017.

The water disinfection system uses solar power to produce ozone gas. The gas is then bubbled through water collected from natural or municipal sources to kill germs and make the water safe for drinking. In partnership with the Safe Water and AIDS Project (SWAP), a non-governmental organization based in Western Kenya, Dorevitch and colleagues have already installed small versions of the system in ten homes in Kisumu’s Kisian Village, where it can disinfect about 40 liters of water a day.

“New and better ways of treating drinking water have to work well in the laboratory, but they also have to be user-friendly and work well in people’s homes,” says Dorevitch, who is also a fellow of UIC’s Institute for Environmental Science and Policy. “People in Kisian Village who used the solar-powered water treatment system say it’s simple to use and they continue to use it even months after the research ended.”



Colin Hendrickson and his SWAP colleagues in Kenya.

The new grant money will enable Dorevitch and his group to install much larger systems in Kisumu that can process up to 5,000 liters of water each day for community use. Colin Hendrickson, a Master of Public Health student in the division of environmental and occupational health sciences, joined Dorevitch in Kenya over the summer. “The box’s small-scale design allows it to run solely using solar energy, bypassing the hefty electricity demand of traditional ozone disinfection. The ozone generators were originally only tested for small quantities of water (<20L), but my project was intended to use more than one generator for larger amounts of water (>1000L) in order to understand how we could effectively scale up the



Dr. Sam Dorevitch presenting his project at an entrepreneurial workshop in Munich.

technology so that more people could benefit from the treated water,” Hendrickson explains.

Dorevitch, Hendrickson and their colleagues will compare two ways of deploying the larger system in two informal settlements in Kisumu: in one settlement, a community water cooperative will manage the system and coordinate water distribution. In another informal settlement, the system will be managed and distribution will be handled by water vendors. “We want to find out what works better, an entrepreneurial model or a nonprofit, cooperative model,” Dorevitch says.

“New and better ways of treating drinking water have to work well in the laboratory, but they also have to be user-friendly and work well in people’s homes.” – Dr. Sam Dorevitch

As part of the funding from the Gates Foundation, Dorevitch, Hendrickson and two of their SWAP colleagues traveled from Kenya to Munich, Germany, to attend a week-long entrepreneurial workshop intended for water and sanitation technologies and businesses. “We participated in the highly engaged workshop which consisted of working one on one with successful start-up business owners and consultants. Because our

experiences are primarily in research, the concepts we learned about entrepreneurship and business models were all very new to us, and we appreciated much of what we learned. While we want to make the biggest impact possible, it was very important to plan out how we can make it a sustainable operation,” says Hendrickson.

Over the next 18 months, the scaled-up treatment system and the two approaches will be evaluated. “We need to know what works and what doesn’t from a technology standpoint as well as from a community standpoint,” Dorevitch says. “We will use that information to guide the deployment of solar-powered clean water systems in other settings and to evaluate the health impacts of this method of water treatment.” ●



Founders Circle Membership

The UIC School of Public Health has been supported through the years by the generous gifts of many loyal friends. We are proud to honor the distinguished group of leadership donors who, year after year, help the university prepare our students for success. Membership in the Founders Circle recognizes donors who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more. Benefits of membership include:

- Invitation to annual Founders Circle reception
- Special communications from the Dean’s Office
- Exclusive invitations to public health lectures
- Founders Circle recognition items



Legacy Society Membership

Create a better tomorrow for public health students, educators and the communities they serve by including the UIC School of Public Health in your estate plan today.

You can direct your gift to any fund or program at the school, making a UIC SPH education more affordable for students in need, or supporting research that improves people’s health and changes lives.

To our current Founders Circle and Legacy Society members, we are grateful that you continue to count the School of Public Health among your philanthropic priorities. Your gift helps us prepare the next generation of leaders, thinkers and doers and inspire answers to tomorrow’s biggest challenges.

To learn more about the Founders Circle or Legacy Society, contact the Office of Advancement at SPHAdvancement@uic.edu or call 312-355-4501.



Emeritus Faculty Continues to Have Impact on Public Health Students

Though retired for five years, Dr. Fred Kviz’s impact continues resonating at the UIC School of Public Health (SPH). His influence shines in courses he developed, colleagues and alumni he mentored, and, most recently, an endowed gift designed to support innovative PhD dissertation research in Community Health Sciences (CHS).

After earning a PhD in sociology from UIC in 1975 and then joining SPH’s faculty ranks in 1979, Kviz has spent the last 40 years contributing to the health, advancement and prominent reputation of SPH as an award-winning teacher, prolific researcher and caring mentor. “I wanted to have the full complement of what it meant to be on faculty and in service to the university,” the Chicago native says of his active SPH career, which began in the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Division before a 1986 move to CHS.

Kviz taught courses and workshops primarily focused on research methods such as research design, measurement, survey research methods and questionnaire design, developing some courses from scratch while substantially revising others. He also co-founded and served as co-director of the UIC Interdepartmental Graduate Concentration in Survey Research Methodology. “I had a rather simple goal:

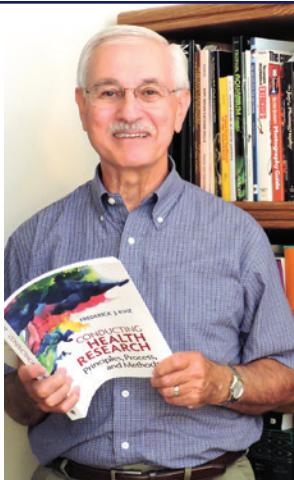


Fred and Linda Kviz

to arm students with knowledge and skills that are relevant and applicable,” he says. Kviz’s research, meanwhile, centered on the influence of psychosocial and sociocultural factors on health promotion and illness prevention attitudes and behavior as well as health disparities. He authored 55 peer-reviewed publications, touching on a diverse array of topics ranging from smoking cessation and substance abuse to childhood immunization and the use of community health services, often leveraging his hometown’s dynamic, diverse population to conduct his original research. “You can take virtually any aspect of life and bring it into public health research,” says Kviz, who also served as a consultant to various public and private-health related agencies.

Finally, as a mentor to SPH colleagues and graduate students, Kviz willingly shared his expertise in survey research methods, research design and measurement to fuel investigative work, while he also encouraged graduate students to pursue intriguing questions with a resilient, persevering attitude.

Dr. Meme Wang-Schweig (PhD ‘12) called Dr. Kviz “a motivating force” as she pursued her PhD, an endeavor that brought its share of challenges, including a shift from studying HIV among minority women to investigating underage drinking among immigrant families.



“During the PhD process, it’s easy to feel isolated, but Fred was always genuinely interested in my progress,” says Wang-Schweig, now a research assistant professor in CHS. “I honestly don’t know if I would have finished my PhD without his guidance and care,” she says.

SPH leadership appointed Kviz professor emeritus in CHS upon his retirement in 2014, and he has remained committed to sharing his knowledge, highlighted by the recent completion of a research methods textbook. *Conducting Health Research: Principles, Process, and Methods* was published in March by SAGE Publications. “It took four years because I wanted to be as thorough and exacting as possible,” Kviz says.

Over the last five years, Kviz has also reflected on one of the most stifling issues he encountered as a PhD advisor and member of SPH’s committee on academic progress. Too often, he met students forced to make hard choices about the research they could feasibly conduct, a reality that often meant a project would struggle to reach its potential. “I saw students trying to support their own research, cobbling together gifts and grants that would only get them so far,” Kviz says.

Looking to remedy that situation, Kviz and his wife, Linda, endowed the Dr. Frederick J. Kviz PhD Dissertation Research Support Scholarship, designed to support CHS PhD students conducting cutting-edge research.

Associate dean of academic affairs Dr. Susan Altfeld (PhD ‘95) says Kviz’s gift characterizes his thoughtful, collaborative and nurturing spirit. “Funding like this enables students to do more,” Altfeld says. “It’s a wonderful gift that can motivate a young researcher and reinforce the promise of their ideas.”

For his part, Kviz hopes the awards help emerging researchers complete their projects with a more confident, enterprising mindset. “This isn’t as much as I’d like to see available, but I certainly believe it can help these budding researchers,” Kviz says. “There will never be enough to cover all the good ideas we encounter, but the more we can cover, the better.” ●

Dr. Sanjib Basu Honored as the Inaugural Paul Levy and Virginia F. Tomasek Professor

On April 9, 2019, the UIC School of Public Health held an investiture ceremony to honor Dr. Sanjib Basu, professor of epidemiology and biostatistics, as the recipient of the Paul Levy and Virginia F. Tomasek Professorship. “An investiture of a professor is one of the most significant highlights of a faculty member’s academic life,” said Dr. Robert Barish, vice chancellor of health affairs, who presided over the ceremony. “Bestowing such a position is a sign of appreciation and

“He is one of the leading statisticians in the United States, but the hallmark of his work is the sustained impact above and beyond the statistics community.”

—Dr. Ron Hershow

endorsement of the individual by the university, and strong belief in their accomplishments and future accomplishments,” he said.

Basu, who has been a faculty member at UIC SPH for just over a year, was joined by family members, colleagues and friends as he received this honor. As a distinguished biostatistician with international stature, he has earned this reputation through outstanding scholarly productivity and the development and application of biostatistical methods that address important biomedical and public health problems. “He is one of the leading statisticians in the United States, but the hallmark of his work is the sustained impact above and beyond the statistics community. These contributions have mainly



occurred in the area of oncology and cancer epidemiology,” said Dr. Ron Hershow, director of the division of epidemiology and biostatistics, who helped recruit Basu to UIC. Named in honor of Dr. Paul Levy and Virginia Tomasek, this professorship will reside in the division of epidemiology and biostatistics, where Levy was a founding faculty member and the first director. Levy, who passed away in 2012, was a renowned scientist, esteemed professor, mentor and friend to many in the UIC SPH community. “He was a highly innovative biostatistician whose expertise was widely sought by the biomedical and public health research communities across the country and globally,” Hershow said. “His work helped improve the lives and health of millions of people worldwide.”

“Paul and Virginia were significant supporters of our school,” said Dean Wayne H. Giles. “Not only did they make this investiture possible through their generous support of the professorship, they were also donors to a scholarship fund that has benefitted dozens of students over the years. I would like to thank them for instituting this wonderful professorship that will greatly assist our school in recruiting and retaining the highest caliber of academic leaders in their fields, such as Dr. Sanjib Basu.” ●



Drs. Barish, Basu, Hershow and Giles



Dr. Basu and his sons

Alumna Receives UIC Achievement Award

As a physical therapy professor and public health administrator, Kathryn Roach brings a healing touch to transformational research

Kathryn Roach (PhD ‘91) views the story of her career in physical therapy as having two interrelated chapters. And she is quick to credit UIC with playing an essential role in both. In the first chapter, she was in clinical practice for 14 years in settings ranging from the burn unit of the old Cook County Hospital to home visits as a physical therapist. “I worked with people as they fought to regain their ability to fully participate in their lives,” Roach said. “It was an enormous honor.” She was trained for that role in the second-ever physical therapy class offered at UIC’s College of Applied Health Sciences, meeting in classrooms in an old building next to what became the Medical Library. “We watched the construction from our classroom windows, and the construction workers watched us practice our clinical skills,” Roach recalled. “Little did I know that years later I would spend many, many hours in that same Medical Library doing dissertation work.”

Roach was inspired by the possibility of identifying factors that could be modified to promote health and prevent disease in the context of physical therapy. Since completing her PhD 18 years ago, she says the profession of physical therapy has moved to embrace many of the ideas she first learned about in the School of Public Health. “The physical therapy profession has adopted The WHO International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health as a guiding framework for practice,” Roach said. Physical therapist researchers continue to use epidemiologic methods to produce the research evidence needed to guide practice. “I am very grateful that my education in Public Health put me on the cutting edge of important developments.”

In fact, she never imagined herself leaving clinical practice, but an interest in research led to her second chapter. She returned to the UIC School of Public Health to pursue a PhD in Epidemiology. “At that point in time, the practice of physical therapy was primarily guided by the medical model of disease care,” Roach said. “The theories, models and methods I was exposed to in the School Public Health expanded my perspectives on health and health care enormously. The concept of health as more than the absence of disease was totally consistent with my experiences as a physical therapist. The idea that you could identify factors that could increase or decrease the risk of health outcomes and that those factors occurred at both the individual and population levels made enormous sense to me.”

Roach learned to take a broader view of health and illness, and explored the possibilities of preventing and treating disabilities. “As much as I loved the first chapter of my career, I think I have loved the second chapter even more.... I went into academics to participate in clinical research. What I did not anticipate was



Dr. Roach receives the UIC Alumni Achievement Award from Chancellor Michael Amiridis

how much I would love teaching,” Roach said, now a professor of physical therapy at the University of Miami’s Miller School of Medicine, as well as vice chair for research and acting vice chair for PhD studies.



Dr. Roach as a graduate of UIC’s College of Applied Health Sciences in 1974

As a clinician, she realized that physical therapists need better ways to measure patients’ functional outcomes, and she has been involved in developing a range of widely used measures. She helped develop and test the Clinical Performance Index, used to assess physical therapy students

during their clinical experiences. Because of skills she acquired during her PhD work, she served as the methodologist on exercise intervention studies of patients with Alzheimer’s disease, spinal cord injury and lower limb loss.

Roach also attended to the restorative powers of giving back. Roach, a member of the School of Public Health’s Legacy Society, has been a longtime supporter to both the College of Applied Health Sciences and the School of Public Health. She established the Donna Roach Scholarship at UIC, named for her mother’s “courage and persistence.” Although her mother’s father thought it a waste of time and money for a woman to go to college, her mother was determined. UIC was where her parents met—both the first in their families to graduate from college.

On October 24, 2019, Roach was awarded the UIC’s Alumni Achievement Award. This is the highest honor bestowed upon alumni by the University of Illinois at Chicago Alumni Association and is given to alumni who have attained outstanding success and national or international distinction in their chosen profession or life’s work. Dr. Ronald Hershow, Director of the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics said, “It was a real honor to celebrate Dr. Roach’s award with the UIC Alumni Community. She has accomplished a great deal in her career and we appreciate the many contributions she has made to the field of Public Health and Physical Therapy. This is a wonderful recognition of Dr. Roach’s hard work and success and is a testament to the importance of cross-disciplinary approaches to advancing the public’s health.” ●

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Ms. Min Zhu
Mrs. Kristine Zimmermann and
Mr. Jeffrey C. Smith
Ms. Kim Zinman
Mr. Edward J. and Mrs. Rachel Jordani
Dr. Patrick M. Zueger and
Mrs. Megan Cangelosi
Ms. Daria Zvetina



PEERING INTO THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH

Leveraging its past, IHRP imagines an even more robust research future fueled by deeper collaboration and technology

Since its founding in 1987, the Institute for Health Research and Policy (IHRP) has played a prominent role in boosting interdisciplinary health-related research. Its efforts have brought the University of Illinois at Chicago national recognition, attracted stellar faculty, secured external funding and resulted in cutting-edge research promoting improved human health.



Dr. Robin Mermelstein

And to hear Robin Mermelstein, PhD, tell it, IHRP is just getting started. Fueled by the fast-evolving world of research and its interdisciplinary ethos, IHRP stands eager to address some of society's most pressing ills. "We have a long track record of breaking down traditional boundaries and see great opportunity ahead to advance our work and contribute to healthier lives," said Mermelstein, one of IHRP's founding leaders and its director since 2008.

AN ACCOMPLISHED HISTORY

A university-wide institute housed inside the School of Public Health (SPH), IHRP provides investigators a sound administrative infrastructure, research mentorship and connections to collaborative partners both at UIC and well beyond the university's doors. Over three decades, IHRP's layered support has empowered academics and clinicians to pursue ambitious health research that home departments might not have the interest or bandwidth to support. "When you're talking about some of society's biggest health problems, there is never one single answer," Mermelstein said. "Obesity, for example, isn't solely about genetics and metabolism, but also includes individual psychology, cultural values, policy and attitudes."

Since its beginnings stemming from a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to fund a Prevention Research Center, IHRP has evolved to support a broad range of high-quality interdisciplinary research, including the ambitious Bridging the Gap initiative led by renowned UIC-based economist Frank Chaloupka. Funded

by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and featuring co-investigators with expertise in economics, policy, and adolescent health behaviors, the nationally recognized project examined the impact of policies and macroenvironmental factors on adolescent substance use, diet and obesity.

In fostering collaboration among investigators throughout UIC, including public health, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, psychology, economics and sociology, IHRP has also supported novel research on issues such as smoking cessation, taxation, HIV prevention and urban violence. "By its very nature, public health is interdisciplinary and IHRP has added depth and richness here," Mermelstein said. "We've helped people feel comfortable tackling big research questions and not to feel daunted by the scope or challenges of the research by taking an integrated, multitiered look at complex problems that have no easy solutions and approaching them synergistically."

Molly Martin, MD, a professor in UIC's Department of Pediatrics, came to UIC in 2014 specifically eager to leverage IHRP's proven research infrastructure to support her work in community asthma and oral health. "IHRP has offered access to institutes and departments across campus and exposure to different research methodologies that drives more comprehensive research," Martin said.



Dr. Molly Martin

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

As SPH marks its 50th anniversary in 2020, IHRP leaders and its affiliated researchers look ahead and see significant opportunity to blend the Institute's collaborative focus and emerging research trends to confront some of human health's stingiest problems. Mermelstein, for instance, foresees deeper integration with on-the-ground partners, including healthcare providers and systems who can help test models in real-world conditions and accelerate translation from basic science to execution. "More and more, we're looking at what might shift everyday behaviors and make it easier to promote health," Mermelstein said. "People knowing how they relate to other professions and ensuring a better hand off is a part of that."

Others predict research will become even more interdisciplinary, quickening a pace IHRP set more than 30 years ago. A policy expert and co-investigator on the Bridging the Gap project, Jamie Chriqui, PhD, holds research partnerships with a dietitian from the College of Applied Health Sciences

and a researcher from the College of Nursing. She said the collaborative nature of IHRP propels more inquisitive research—and a hunger for deeper understanding. "The more we can learn from each other, the more we can draw upon each other, the better the research can be," said Chriqui, a professor of Health Policy and Administration at SPH and co-director of the IHRP's Health Policy Center.

As the principal investigator on an oral health study, Martin maintains partnerships with researchers in the UIC College of Dentistry, a pediatric anesthesiologist and a psychologist. On an asthma project, she works alongside colleagues with expertise in economics and clinical psychology. "If we're all siloed in our colleges, then it's hard to see shared interests and capitalize on collaborative opportunities that can drive important research," Martin said. "IHRP ensures that doesn't happen."

Beyond collaboration with other health-related disciplines, Chriqui anticipates even greater engagement with east side of campus units, especially as UIC leadership champions East-West collaborations. Chriqui has had as many as 20 students from UIC's College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA) working for her, and she expects CUPPA's insights on zoning and land-use policy will continue to inform her work. "Health isn't an isolated condition," Chriqui said. "The environment we live in impacts health outcomes and that's why partnering with CUPPA makes sense."

Given the tech-driven nature of today's world, IHRP leaders also see ties to UIC engineering and computer science expanding. Experts in those areas can help enact more efficient and robust data mining, develop improved ways to conduct surveys and compile information and create technological tools that work as in-the-moment interventions spurring positive health choices. "By accelerating the work we've been doing and continuing to forge new partnerships, I see a broader lens to the public health work we do that will advance science and promote healthier living," Chriqui said.



Dr. Jamie Chriqui

Emboldened by its past successes, driven by its collective ambition and empowered by evolving research approaches, IHRP stands well positioned to continue its run as a research driver for UIC that also stimulates healthier lives. "Moving forward with our interdisciplinary team science, I feel we'll be able to tackle challenges at an even larger level, and that's incredibly encouraging," Mermelstein said. ●

Celebrating the Achievements of Students, Alumni, Faculty and Staff

EDWIN H. CHEN, PhD, Professor Emeritus, received the 2019 Champion of Public Health Award for his generous philanthropy to the UIC School of Public Health. He was recruited to teach in the biometry program in 1972 and made his first gift to SPH in 1973, contributing more than 100 gifts to the school over the past 46 years. Very early on in his career at UIC, Dr. Chen knew how important it was to the school to support it and recently indicated that his gifts will support

efforts to bring prominent speakers and lecturers to UIC to present on issues of public health. His gifts will give the school the flexibility to choose speakers who will raise awareness around the school during and after our 50th Anniversary in 2020.

Dr. Chen receives the Champion of Public Health Award from Dean Wayne H. Giles and Assistant Dean for Advancement Kaye Oberhausen.



SPH's Institute for Healthcare Improvement team, comprised of MHA candidates **LALLI AKURATI**, **CRISSEL MARIE ARBAN**, **MARTIN FINNEGAN** and **JENNIFER NEELY**, placed first at the Clarion National Interprofessional Case Competition, with an analysis of plans to address housing insecurity and health challenges for homeless populations.



JAY BHATT, MD, (MPH '02) was featured in an on-stage discussion on challenges in veterans' health care with Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, at a Presidential Leadership Scholars event.

BASMATTEE BOODRAM, (PhD '09), associate professor of community health sciences, has been named a research Rising Star by the UIC Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research.



Dr. Jay Bhatt

CHRISTINE BOZLAK (PhD '10) earned tenure as a professor at the School of Public Health at the University of Albany.

BETHANY DOMINIK, MPH candidate in in Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology, and **KRISTINE ZIMMERMAN** (MPH '03), PhD candidate in Community Health Sciences, published new research with professor **ARDEN HANDLER** in the Maternal and Child Health Journal on universal early post-partum home visiting.

JANET R. DOUGLAS (MPH '78) authored a memoir titled "A Wonderful Stroke of Luck: From Occupational Therapist to Patient and Beyond."

SERAP ERDAL, PhD, associate professor, and **LAUREL BERMAN** (PhD '06), (MS '02), adjunct assistant professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, published research in the *Journal of Environmental Health* on a five-step model for land reuse to protect people from the health effects of polluted land.

WAYNE H. GILES, MD, MS, Dean of the UIC School of Public Health, was appointed to the Boards of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health and the American Heart Association.

JANIELLE PAEZ HILL, dual degree MPH/MBA candidate, was named to the Chicago mayor's Office Fellowship Program where she will explore ways to combat littering across the city.



Janielle Paez-Hill

The College of Engineering and Engineering Technology of Northern Illinois University presented Associate Professor **TED HOGAN** (PhD '82, MS '80) with the 2019 Faculty of the Year award.



Dr. Ted Hogan

OSE ITUAH, MHA candidate, was awarded the 2019 Albert W. Dent scholarship by the The American College of Healthcare Executives.

The Senior Director of Research for Kaiser Permanente Southern California, **STEVEN J. JACOBSEN**, MD, (PhD '90), has been elected by his peers to the office of president-elect of the American College of Epidemiology for the 2020 membership year. He will assume the College's presidency in 2021.

MORGAN LAWSON, MS candidate in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, earned an American Industrial Hygiene Association Local Section Student Scholarship.



Ose Ituah

JARED MAEDA (PhD '10) earned the Director's Award for his work with the U.S. Congressional Budget Office, for his work in health, retirement and long-term analysis.

DHEERAJ MAHAJAN, MD, MBA, (MPH '19) has joined long-term care software company MatrixCare as Chief Medical Officer and Executive Vice President. He will continue to serve as President and CEO of Chicago Internal Medicine Practice and Research.



Dr. Dheeraj Mahajan

J. REBECCA MILLS (DrPH '18) published new research in the journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology providing guidelines for the use of opioids during uncomplicated labor, delivery and birth.

LINDSAY MENARD (MPH '12) accepted the role of Legislative Management System Specialist/Policy Analyst for Dane County in their Board of Supervisors Office.

Tell us what you're up to!
Email your news to TellSPH@uic.edu.

KRYZTAL PENA, BA candidate, won first place at the Medical Organization for Latino Advancement Health Symposium for her presentation entitle "How Does the Social Environment Affect Cultural Misconceptions about Breast Cancer Among Latinas?"

JESSICA ROACH (MPH '18) was featured in *The Guardian* on her efforts to address the health and wellbeing of Black women in the U.S. before, during and after childbirth.

At the American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Expo, **MARGARET SIETSEMA** (PhD '15), (MS '11), research assistant professor of environmental and occupational health sciences, earned the John M. White Award from the AIHA Respiratory Protection Committee for her research, "Are Quantitative Fit Factors Predictive of Respirator Fit During Simulated Healthcare Activities?"



Boyede Sobitan

BOYEDE SOBITAN (MHA '07) has launched OjaExpress, a same day grocery delivery platform specifically for African and Caribbean grocery stores that allows small grocers to sell culturally specific groceries.

NICHOLAS TILIPMAN, PhD, assistant professor of health policy and administration, co-authored a new study that examines the state of California's options for increasing health care access in light of actions by the federal government to weaken coverage though the Affordable Care Act.

STEPHEN TRZECIAK, MD, (MPH '06) was appointed chief of medicine for Cooper University Health Care and chair of the Department of Medicine for Cooper Medical School of Rowan



Dr. Stephen Trzeciak

University. He also recently authored a book titled "Compassionomics: The Revolutionary Scientific Evidence that Caring Makes a Difference."

The following deaths were shared with the UIC School of Public Health. UIC SPH remembers them for their contributions to the field of public health.

CARL BELL, MD

Dr. Bell was a distinguished psychiatrist and National Institute of Mental Health researcher who spent most of his career confronting the impact of violence-related trauma on child development. He was a true pioneer and tireless advocate, researcher and practitioner on behalf of public health approaches to eliminating health disparities, especially in relation to trauma exposure and mental health among youth. With SPH colleagues, he developed and tested a school-based violence prevention program called Aban Aya. His recent work focused on what he saw as a "silent epidemic" of fetal alcohol exposure among African Americans. After observing the prevalence among patients at Jackson Park Hospital, he set out to find effective prevention efforts, publishing his research in his 2018 book "Fetal Alcohol Exposure in the African American Community."



NAOMI MINNER MORRIS, MD, MPH

Dr. Morris was a pioneer, trailblazer and leader in the field of maternal and child health. She served as chair of the division of community health sciences at the UIC School of Public Health from 1980 through 1995. In this role, she successfully applied for and received a federally funded MCH Training Grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Dr. Morris led the MCH Program at UIC SPH for almost two decades and remained on the faculty for another 10 years until her retirement from UIC in 2005.

During her long career, Dr. Morris served on numerous local, state and national committees and boards in both volunteer and elected positions. These organizations included the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Chicago Department of Public Health, the Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health and the Maternal and Child Health Section of the American Public Health Association. Dr. Morris published well over 50 peer-reviewed publications, technical reports and book chapters, and is noted to have received many important awards as well as having mentored numerous students and launched many careers. In 1999, Dr. Morris received the Martha May Eliot Award for Outstanding Contributions to Maternal and Child Health, and in 2003 received the March of Dimes Award for Lifetime Achievement.



2019 ANNUAL ALUMNI CELEBRATION

The UIC School of Public Health held its Annual Alumni Celebration on March 28, 2019 at the Willis Tower. More than 150 guests joined us for beautiful views of the Chicago skyline and many visited the Skydeck and ventured out onto The Ledge.



Award recipients pose with members of UIC leadership

Champion of Public Health
Edwin H. Chen
Professor Emeritus of Biostatistics

Dr. Naomi Morris Alumni Achievement Award for Maternal and Child Health
Debra Kane, MS, PhD '03

Health Policy and Administration Alumni Achievement Award
John Herrmann, MPH '03, DVM, DACT

Health Equity Award
Juana Ballesteros, MPH '05, RN

Rising Star Award
Karen Aguirre, MPH '17



WILLIS TOWER SKYDECK



Dean Giles spots the UIC School of Public Health from the Willis Tower Skydeck



Alumni Council Celebrates Inaugural Year

In the spring of 2019, the newly formed Alumni Council wrapped up its first year representing UIC School of Public Health alumni. Formerly the Alumni Board and the Recent Graduate Committee, the groups decided to implement a merge at the end of 2017 after leadership of both groups discussed ways to take alumni initiatives to the next level. “Merging the two groups provided an opportunity to not only adequately utilize resources but also make the best impact possible through the commitment of the members,” said Emily Pasteris, Associate Director of Engagement and Participation.

Members of the new Alumni Council spent part of the year closely reviewing their mission and realigning it with the school’s mission. Under the new structure, the priorities of the Alumni Council include building a stronger relationship with the student body, offering support to current students during their time at SPH, exploring ways to connect with perspective students, continuing to engage with the recent graduate population and creating and implementing meaningful networking opportunities for all alumni.

The council is comprised of 15 Chicago-based alumni with diverse public health backgrounds. Alumni represent each public health division and program, including the first-ever undergraduate alumni representative Katherine Koo (BA ‘17). “What I am most excited for during my term on the Alumni Council is to establish networking and engagement opportunities between current undergraduate public health students and alumni of all degree-seeking programs throughout SPH,” Koo said. “Not only will this help to facilitate personal and professional development amongst students and alumni, but will also foster a greater wrap-around undergraduate experience for future bachelors in public health students.”



Alumni Council co-chairs, Natalia Gallegos (second from left) and Dan Finn (center) meet with other members of the council.

This past July, Dan Finn (MPH ‘15) and Natalia Gallegos (MPH ‘15) became the Alumni Council’s inaugural co-chairs. “It has been a great opportunity to be part of shaping the new Alumni Council and its mission. Being a co-chair gives me a unique chance to give back to UIC SPH and it’s been really fun to watch the council develop through the strong contributions of its members,” Finn said.

One initiative that the Alumni Council is excited to be part of is helping SPH celebrate its 50th Anniversary year in 2020. “The SPH Alumni Council offers a strong voice in promoting the school, the students and the opportunities for alumni to get involved. As a co-chair of the Alumni Council, I know we are all excited about what the future holds as we head into our 50th anniversary and beyond,” Finn said. “Members are excited to celebrate this milestone year together and meet as many fellow alumni as they can at the Kick-Off Event in October and be part of what lies ahead for UIC SPH.”

The Alumni Council is taking applications for new members. If you are interested in applying or would like more information on getting involved, visit publichealth.uic.edu/alumni. ●



CELEBRATION

Class of 2019 Encouraged to Go Out Into That Big, Scary World and Make a Difference

You are here for a purpose

"You are here for a purpose," were just a few of the encouraging words delivered by Dr. Ngozi Ezike, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health and keynote speaker at the UIC School of Public Health 2019 commencement ceremony. "You're here because you have put in the blood, sweat and tears of study and research around the incredible field of



Dr. Ngozi Ezike, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health and keynote speaker

public health, and your professors think that you are well-armed to go out there into that big scary world and make a difference in the health of communities. I applaud you for stepping up to lead your community." Dr. Ezike, a board-certified internist and pediatrician, was appointed by Governor Pritzker to the public health department in February 2019.

The conferral of the degrees for Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Public Health, Master of Public Health, Master of Science, Master of Healthcare Administration, and Bachelor of Arts, were presented to nearly 200 graduates. After the degrees were granted and the students were now officially alumni of UIC, they were encouraged to stay

connected to their alma mater by Kera Beskin, MBA (MPH '18), member of the SPH Alumni Council. Beskin urged the graduates to get involved by attending alumni events, hosting a student intern or volunteering and donating to the school.

An important part of the ceremony each year is the presentation of awards. The Bernard H. Baum Golden Apple Award, named in honor of one of the school's founding professors who encouraged faculty to not only become productive scholars, but also teachers who taught well. Each year, the recipient of this award is selected from a highly competitive and extraordinary field of talented faculty nominees and the 2019 awardee was Dr. Sreenivas Konda, clinical assistant professor of biostatistics.

UIC annually recognizes and honors its great teachers by awarding the Silver Circle Award. Students select a professor for his/her outstanding teaching and extraordinary service. This year's recipient was Dr. John Herrmann, director of the Center for One



Anna Yankelev, recipient of the Alan W. Donaldson Memorial Award

Health Illinois, clinical associate professor at the college of veterinary medicine, and professor in the undergraduate program at the School of Public Health.

The Alan W. Donaldson Memorial Award, named for the school's first associate dean, is given to a student who demonstrates academic excellence, leadership and service. This year, it was presented to Anna Yankelev, who earned a joint MPH/MBA degree in Community Health Sciences and Management. Yankelev concluded the ceremony with words of inspiration for her fellow classmates by

asking them to reflect back on the moment when they were ignited into action to make the world a healthier, more just place. "When you feel that spark, you realize that you have the power to act, to make something better in your community, to actually DO something, and it changes you." ●



50th Kick-Off Celebration



Dean Wayne H. Giles is joined by Paul Brandt-Rauf, Chancellor Michael Amiridis and Susan Scrimshaw

On October 23, 2019, the UIC School of Public Health hosted more than 200 guests at its 50th Anniversary Kick-off Celebration at the historic Palmer House. The event included a welcome by UIC Chancellor Michael Amiridis and a panel discussion by SPH deans Wayne Giles, Paul Brandt-Rauf and Susan Scrimshaw on *The Past, Present and Future of Public Health*. A generous lead gift by alumna and former SPH Executive Advisory Board President, Denise Oleske (PhD '83, MPH '74), was announced and a new scholarship fund was established to honor the 50th Anniversary.



Denise Oleske (PhD '83, MPH '74) announced the new 2020 Scholarship Fund, established by her generous lead gift which immediately endowed the fund



Nikki Floyd, clinical research professor of community health sciences, brought her students to hear the panel discussion



Todd Stankewicz (MPH/MBA '01) served as moderator of the panel



Alumni Council member, Dharani Ramanathan (MPH '13) mingled with other alumni

Alumni Awards



Do you know exceptional UIC SPH alumni? If so, consider nominating them for an achievement award! Awardees will be honored at the Annual Alumni Celebration on April 2, 2020. Visit publichealth.uic.edu/alumni for more information about nominating someone by the December 31, 2019 deadline.

Join Us!

APRIL 2, 2020, 6:00 PM
Annual Alumni Celebration
Café Brauer at Lincoln Park Zoo
2021 North Stockton Drive
Chicago, IL 60614

For more information, visit publichealth.uic.edu/alumni.



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