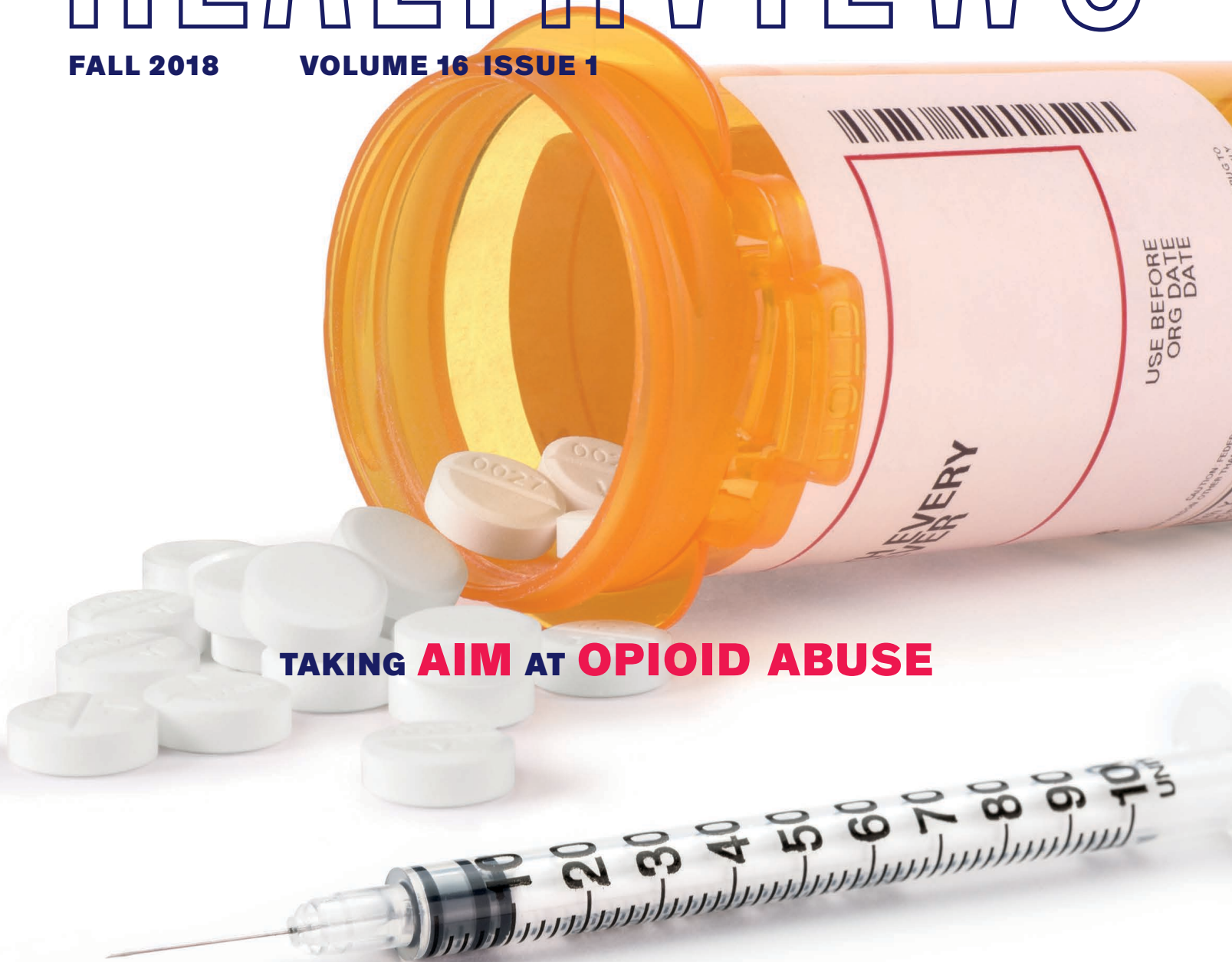


HEALTHVIEWS

FALL 2018

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 1



TAKING **AIM** AT OPIOID ABUSE

UIC **IGNITE**
THE CAMPAIGN FOR UIC

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Inside This Issue

Improving Health in Kenya

Addressing Precarious Work

Providing Services to the Mining Industry

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 Mayuko Takmiya (MPH '18), a 2017 recipient of the Douglas Passaro Global Horizons Scholarship. As an epidemiology student, she traveled to Hyderabad, India to study food insecurity and medication adherence among female sex workers with HIV. This image shows people lining up for free nutritional support provided by a local NGO in front of a government hospital.



HEALTHVIEWS

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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.

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As I complete my first year as the Dean of the School of Public Health, I reflect back on all the wonderful opportunities I have had to meet alumni, donors, students and friends. Everyone has been so welcoming and helpful and I learned a lot about what makes this school so unique. I look forward to the coming year as the school begins to announce its plans to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2020. Please watch for invitations and communications about how you can participate in the year-long celebration!



The fall is always a busy time at the UIC School of Public Health, with new students and faculty joining our community and new courses and certificates being offered. Take, for example, the school's new course on the Epidemics of Injustice (pages 20-21) and the new Master of Sciences degree in Health Analytics (page 10). We also recently announced our new Mining Education and Research Center (pages 3-4).

Also in this issue of *Healthviews*, and highlighted on the cover, you'll read about the work we are doing to combat the opioid crisis. Our Community Outreach and Intervention Projects (COIP) has always been a leader in the field of treating drug abuse as a public health issue, but Professor Basmattee Boodram's work to identify effective interventions is truly groundbreaking (see pages 8-10).

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. Check out pages 11-13 to read about the work that three of our faculty members are doing in Kenya. I was thrilled to be able to travel there this past summer to see their research projects in action.

The Advancing Health section showcases the variety of reasons why someone chooses to financially support UIC SPH. On page 16, you'll read about how we honored the Passaro Family at our annual Founders Circle and Legacy Society reception for the continued generosity to our Global Health Program.

Lastly, I hope you'll take a moment to check out the last 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 the many events we have planned during the coming year.

Wayne H. Giles, MD, MS

Wayne H. Giles, MD, MS
Dean



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

The misuse of and addiction to opioids is a serious national crisis. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of overdose deaths involving opioids was 5 times higher than in 1999. What are effective public health strategies for addressing the opioid epidemic?

Members of the UIC SPH community weigh in....

As a health disparities researcher and community engagement specialist, I suggest a multi-level approach to get at the systemic issues related to structural violence that perpetuate negative outcomes in some communities more than others. Effective strategies must examine issues at the individual level, community level and the policy level. There also has to be a widespread increase in community education on what opioids are and interventions must address the stigma associated with opioid usage.



KARRIEM S. WATSON, DHS, MS, MPH '10
ASSISTANT RESEARCH PROFESSOR OF COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES, CO-INVESTIGATOR AT THE CENTER FOR HEALTH EQUITY RESEARCH CHICAGO

The opioid crisis is a complex and systemic public health issue that requires collaboration across disciplines. Physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, communicators, policy-makers, legislators and more all play important roles in this process. System-wide strategies – like UI Health's Opioid Task Force - bring together key stakeholders to guide, influence and update protocols and policy that is rooted in the research within our communities.



MICHAEL J. WESBECHER, MPH '15
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS

Acknowledging the barriers that exist in the communities where this epidemic is taking place is key. Opioid misuse has been a problem for a while; however, there has been a difference in response depending on the community which is being observed. Our ability to properly recognize barriers to why individuals may be falling victim could be an effective strategy for how to address the epidemic.



ANGEL GRIFFIN
MPH CANDIDATE IN COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES, PRESIDENT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENT ASSOCIATION

I believe one effective strategy is having comprehensive and timely data which enable us to understand the epidemic, provide necessary resources, and evaluate prevention efforts. Furthermore, a multidisciplinary approach that engages necessary stakeholders such as prescribers, public health professionals, and the public is also essential in order to ensure that effective strategies are successfully implemented to combat this epidemic.



SWETHA RAMANATHAN, MPH '13
PHD CANDIDATE IN EPIDEMIOLOGY

We need to identify how upstream systems factors (like homelessness) and different actors (such as the physician's prescribing pattern) influence addictive behaviors to opioids. With these different perspectives of this complex problem, we can then design more effective, personalized, and impactful strategic management of physical pain and emotional distress to the different targeted populations.



KEE CHAN, PHD
CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HEALTH POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

Extraordinary problems require bold steps. To decrease the stigma, suffering, and expense associated with substance-use disorder, Chicago should establish safe-injection sites. Pushing opioid-use into the darkened corners of our city does nothing to promote health- it merely furthers the criminalization of addiction, marginalizes more already pained persons, and accelerates the downward spiral in which too many of our citizens are caught.



JOSHUA SMITH
MD AND MPH CANDIDATE IN HEALTH POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION, CO-FOUNDER OF CHICAGO STREET MEDICINE

UIC Launches Mining Education and Research Center

Providing education, clinical services, and research related to health and safety in the mining industry



Dr. Robert Cohen

On September 27, 2018, Wayne H. Giles, Dean of the School of Public Health, announced the public launch of the new UIC Mining Education and Research (MinER) Center. Giles and Robert Cohen, clinical professor of environmental and occupational health sciences, joined nearly 100 guests in the Hull House Museum to publically launch the new center, which will consolidate efforts to provide education and clinical services, along with conducting research related to health and safety in the mining industry.

“As we embark on the new MinER Center, we hope through the center’s research and scholarship, training opportunities, and service to the community to address the important health issues of miners here in Illinois, across the nation and around the globe,” Giles said. “The center will bring together under one roof all projects that have to do with the health effects associated with working in the mining industry, including lung disease from mineral dust exposure and injuries.”

Cohen, who will direct the MinER Center, spoke about the importance of the center at UIC. He was joined by colleagues from the United Mine Workers of America; Construction, Forestry Mining and Energy Union in Australia; and National Jewish Health in Denver; who were in Chicago to attend the Black Lung Conference. The center “will also provide services through our federally funded Black Lung Clinic and Center of Excellence. Our extensive international education and outreach programs help educate miners and health professionals regarding risks of injury and illness in the mining industry,” he said.

The MinER Center will become the home of several coal mining research projects at UIC, including a \$1.8 million, three-year grant from the Alpha Foundation for the Improvement of Mining Safety and Health, Inc., that will help



Guests attend a reception to announce the new MinER Center at UIC SPH. Left to right: Dr. Anjana Yeldandi, Dr. Naseema Vorajee, Dr. Cecile Rose, Angela Crandall and Grant Crandall

determine why mine dust-related lung diseases, including progressive massive fibrosis and rapidly progressive pneumoconiosis, are on the rise. Other UIC studies funded by the Alpha Foundation will use big data sets to evaluate the course of black lung disease over a miner’s lifetime and look at malignant and non-malignant respiratory disease, as well as cardiovascular disease caused by mining activities.

continued on next page...

...continued from page 3

UIC is also designated as the only Black Lung Center of Excellence, also funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The center provides support for the black lung clinics nationally and training and research opportunities to clinicians and students interested in learning more about mining-related diseases. It was established in 2014 with funding from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy.

Cohen and his colleagues have led efforts around the globe that educate occupational, pulmonary and radiology physicians to better-recognize lung diseases caused by respirable dust produced in coal mines. Both silica and coal dust contribute to black lung disease — a progressive lung disease that Cohen and his team have found to be on the rise among coal workers.

“The mission of the UIC MinER Center is to help reduce the risk for mining-related health problems and treat and care for the mining workforce. These workers should not only exit the workplace safely at the end of each day but exit their careers in good health instead of being sickened by exposure to particulates that have damaged their lungs,” said Giles.

“The mission of the UIC MinER Center is to help reduce the risk for mining-related health problems and treat and care for the mining workforce.” —Dr. Wayne H. Giles



Dr. Robert Cohen, right, is joined by Dr. Deborah Yates and Dr. David Weissman at the Hull House Museum.

In Australia, Cohen and his group have been funded by the government of Queensland to train physicians to examine coal miners and identify coal mine dust-related lung disease on X-rays. Cohen’s team also discovered that lung disease is prevalent among coal workers there.

“Our discovery of black lung disease among Australian miners, which had been thought to have been eradicated, had a significant influence in the regulatory environment and helped change policies to be more protective of miners’ health,” Cohen said.

Cohen and his colleagues also manage extensive education and training programs in the Appalachian region of the United States and are currently working with colleagues to launch educational programs in Colombia.

The UIC Black Lung Clinic will also be folded into the UIC MinER Center. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funds black lung clinics throughout the United States, including the UIC clinic, which is housed at Northwestern Medicine. The clinic sees coal miners from around the world. ●



DIVISION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES



IDENTIFYING THE ROOT CAUSES OF PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGES

Christina R. Welter, DrPH, MPH is a clinical assistant professor of community health sciences and serves as Associate Director of the Doctorate in Public Health Leadership Program and the Director of the MidAmerica Center for Public Health Practice. Her passion is to facilitate practice and academic partnerships where practice drives important public

health research to understand, collectively create, and translate and implement innovative and enduring change.

Welter’s expertise and scholarship specifically focuses on engaged participatory action based research to understand, influence, and evaluate policy, environment, and systems (PSE) change. She works with diverse communities and intersectoral collaborations to identify the root causes of public health challenges and build the evidence of and take action to address strategic changes in physical, social, political, and economic environments. Her research goal is not only to build systems and policy changes that respond to root causes of inequities in health but also to build capacity and leadership among diverse constituents to sustain PSE efforts.

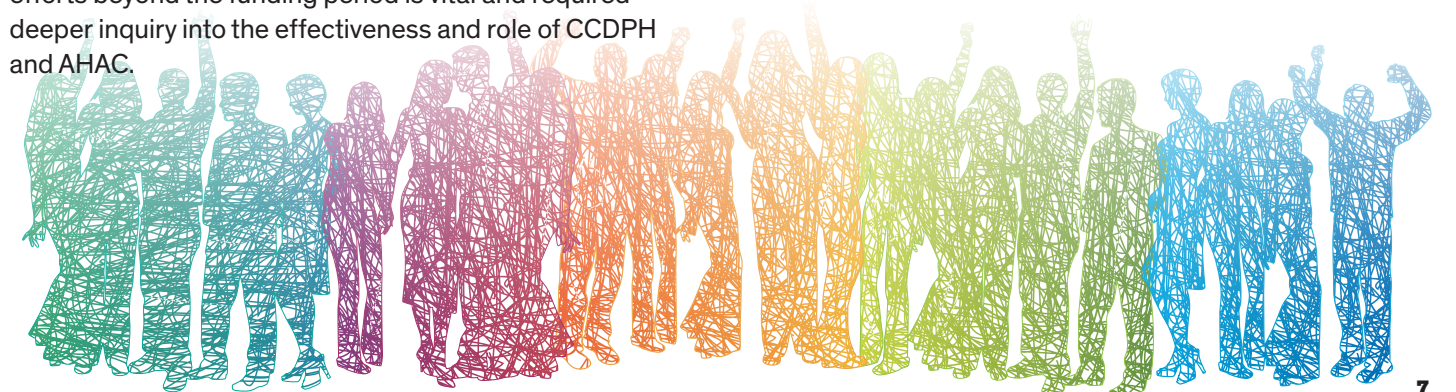
One of Welter’s most recent projects included a collaboration with her UIC SPH colleague Dr. Elizabeth Jarpe-Ratner, the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH), and The Alliance for Healthy and Active Communities (AHAC), a multi-sector collaborative convened by CCDPH. CCDPH received funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention entitled “Partnerships to Improve Community Health” that supported AHAC in implementing policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) change initiatives. Sustaining these efforts beyond the funding period is vital and required deeper inquiry into the effectiveness and role of CCDPH and AHAC.

Welter and Jarpe-Ratner conducted a practice-based, action-driven evaluation to answer two questions related to the sustainability of their PSE efforts:

- 1) What factors facilitate sustainability of health-related policy, systems and environmental initiatives? and
- 2) How can CCDPH and AHAC sustain such efforts?

Using a case study approach, focus groups and key informant interviews were conducted with 50 stakeholders, including representatives from agencies implementing PSE improvements, organizations providing technical assistance, and CCDPH staff members.

Results guided facilitated planning sessions with CCDPH and AHAC in which key evaluation themes influenced the dialogue centered on roles and goals of both CCDPH and AHAC. First, findings revealed that CCDPH plays a vital strategic and systems leadership role in building community capacity and catalyzing PSE change. This understanding informed the development of the CCDPH strategic plan and consideration of its role as a Chief Health Strategist; supported efforts to extend and strengthen community capacity; and created a tracking tool to monitor and evaluate PSE work. Second, findings revealed that AHAC members are committed to continuing PSE efforts focused on core sustainability factors with which to leverage their organizational assets, along with an increased focus on inter-sectoral relationships with housing, transportation, and other sectors. In doing so, AHAC has aligned their work with a more health-equity-oriented vision. In addition, with support from the Illinois Prevention Research Center, Welter and her colleagues are creating a suite of practice-based documents and manuscripts that focus on the gaps in the literature around policy and systems implementation and sustainability and the role of technical assistance in the process. The group was acknowledged at APHA 2018 as the runner-up for the Health Administration Research-to-Practice Award. ●



DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES



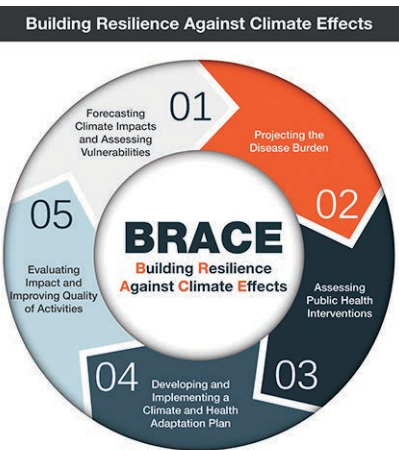
MANAGING DISASTERS AND MEASURING RESILIENCE

Apostolis Sambanis, PhD is an adjunct assistant professor of environmental and occupational health sciences. He is also a curriculum director for the Emergency Management and Continuity Planning Certificate, which offers interdisciplinary leadership training through a collaboration between UIC's School of Public Health and College of Business Administration. For more than ten years, Sambanis has focused on practicing risk management and regulatory compliance in Chicago. His work has included environmental assessments, emergency response, business continuity, resilience characterization, and remediation for a variety of private sector clients.

Sambanis' academic work includes being a program expert for Geographic Information Systems, Spatial Analysis and Decision Assistance (SADA), and Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazus program, which supports risk-informed decision making efforts by estimating potential losses from earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, and tsunamis and visualizing the effects of such hazards. His current research involves risk visualization and decision support content for managing disasters or measuring resilience.

His past research includes evaluation of a geospatial health risk computer program funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. He implemented the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) climate change adaptation framework for the state of Illinois. He also developed a Private Sector Integration Plan for the creation of logistical inventory software to be used during a disaster response event.

Sambanis is currently working with other researchers at UIC, Drs. Michael Cailas, Kristin Osecki, and Sage Kim to conduct a study in the City of Galesburg, Illinois of its lead service line replacement project.



With support from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Galesburg is expected to replace approximately 500 service lines. Sambanis and his colleagues intend to divide the homes into control groups to compare the results and address lead remediation in the future. While the exact control groups have not been determined yet, an example could be comparing homes with lead paint and a lead water service line with homes that only have a lead service line. Sambanis would like to focus the study on households that have children ages six and younger. ●

DIVISION OF HEALTH POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

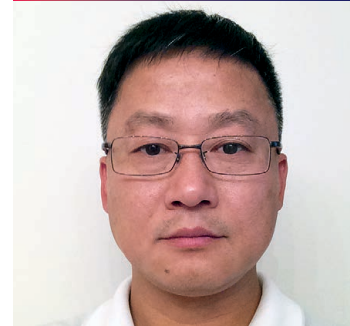


EXAMINING HOW INEQUALITY AFFECTS HEALTH OUTCOMES

Sage Kim, PhD is an associate professor of health policy and administration whose primary research area looks at the effect of mass incarceration and surveillance on neighborhood social, economic, and health outcomes. Her research focuses on social and spatial processes that shape neighborhood context, which ultimately contribute to health inequality.

Kim collaborates with multi-disciplinary scholars on neighborhood effects on crime, delinquency, and incarceration in relation to social exclusion, labor market outcomes, and health. She interviewed women in jail and followed them back into the community exploring their social, economic, and health conditions. She also completed her study with former inmates released from jails and prisons examining barriers and facilitators for adherence to HIV care. Kim collaborated with Community Outreach Intervention Projects on a project called "Seek, Test, and Treat," which implemented opt-out HIV test at intake in corrections. She and her colleagues are working on multiple manuscripts with these data. During Summer 2018, Kim and her colleagues analyzed the Chicago Police Department gang database and Strategic Subject List, looking at the spatial clusters and racial disparity in CPD surveillance practices. Two reports from this analysis are available.

DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIostatISTICS



ANALYZING COMPLEX HEALTH SCIENCE DATA

Hua Yun Chen, PhD is professor of biostatistics whose research has been focused on developing innovative statistical methods for analyzing complex health science data. His areas of expertise include statistical methods for analysis of data with missing values, for design

and analysis of biased samples in epidemiological studies, and for identification of gene-environment interactions. Chen's recent research work also covers methods for analysis of high-dimensional genomic data with a large number of weak effects and for study of adverse health effects of exposures to environmental chemicals.

In a recent project funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Chen collaborated with Dr. Mary Turyk, associate professor of epidemiology, and other faculty members at UIC SPH, on developing a set of innovative statistical methods to tackle the challenges of analyzing the adverse health effects of exposures to environmental chemical mixtures, data collected in biomonitoring. Biomonitoring is the direct measurement of people's exposure to toxic substances by measuring human specimens, such as blood or urine. Biomonitoring measurements provide health-relevant assessments of exposure because they indicate the combined amount of the chemicals that the body absorbs from all environmental sources (for example, air, soil, water, dust, food).

One of her new papers, entitled "Gendered and Racialized Social Expectations, Barriers, and Delayed Breast Cancer Diagnosis," was published in the journal Cancer in the Fall of 2018 and was selected as a featured paper. This paper examines how racialized ideal gender images affect minority women's healthcare utilization. As a member of the University of Illinois Cancer Center, she collaborates with multi-disciplinary scholars on projects that aim to explore how social experiences may affect the genes and biological responses. For example, Kim is a Co-I on a project examining racial differences in neighborhood exposure and colorectal cancer. She is currently working with a team of scholars from urban planning, geography, and



Despite some anticipated challenges typically associated with analyzing contemporary biomonitoring data, Chen will develop a set of new approaches that can detect the collective weak main and interaction effects of exposures to chemical mixtures, identify causal pathways through innovative network analysis, and estimate the causal effects of exposures to a mixture of chemicals. The proposed methodology development will help better understand the effects of the environmental exposures on human health by considering chemical mixtures, rather than each component in isolation. Methods will be implemented in a software package for ease of access by researchers. In collaboration with the Wisconsin Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health, the proposed methods will be applied to a range of environmental health studies to improve our understanding of the global and individual relationships of mixtures of environmental exposures and health outcomes.

Additional research in Chen's portfolio is supported by the Mathematical Science Division of the U.S. National Science Foundation for studies of network structures using a general modeling framework. Chen also collaborates with Dr. Dawood Darbar, professor of medicine and pharmacology and chief of cardiology at UI Health, to identify rare genetic variants associated with irregular and often rapid heart rate (atrial fibrillation). Together they also plan to study antiarrhythmic therapies that are modulated by common genetic variants associated with atrial fibrillation. ●

cancer researchers on an R01 application to explore multi-level spatio-temporal dynamics of neighborhood exposures on cancer survivorship outcomes. Kim is also working on another grant proposal that aims to examine neighborhood conditions and racial disparity in lung cancer gene methylation patterns.

Additionally, Kim works with the Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) to develop health equity research agenda and to train researchers to address equity issues. She is currently writing an evaluation paper looking at processes and challenges of building a multi-disciplinary center such as CHER. ●

Taking aim at opioid abuse

With a pair of NIH grants, SPH faculty member Basmattee Boodram looks to identify effective interventions amid the ever-intensifying opioid epidemic *By Daniel P. Smith*

While the nation's eyes largely fell off injection-drug use in the early 21st century, Basmattee Boodram's gaze remained set on the target.

And for good reason.

An associate professor in the UIC School of Public Health's Division of Community Health Sciences, Boodram noticed a generation coming of age in the U.S. with little, if any, memory of how injection-drug use had devastated communities across the nation during the closing decades of the 20th century. For Boodram, whose research sits at the intersection of substance abuse and infectious diseases, the resurrection of injection-drug use and the



Basmattee Boodram

damage it inflicts, from chronic diseases like hepatitis C to taxing societal burdens like homelessness and unemployment, was only a matter of when, not if.

"You could see this coming," Boodram says. "And now, it's here."

In recent years, injection-drug use among young people from non-urban areas has climbed with several studies linking the trend to the simultaneous rise in prescription opioid misuse among suburban and rural teens and twentysomethings. That has sparked a rise in hepatitis C cases, with an estimated 41,200 new infections occurring in 2016 alone.

This...study looks at a new generation of persons who inject drugs, examining who they are and why they're transitioning into injection." — Dr. Boodram



"Hepatitis C is the major disease coming out of the opioid epidemic and it's these people, a good number from suburban and rural areas who engage in risky practices like syringe sharing, who will continue to push hepatitis C cases up," Boodram says, adding that hepatitis C elimination strategies focusing specifically on the estimated 1.3 million Americans who inject drugs are urgently needed. "My role is to break the chains of hepatitis C transmission and minimize the impact of the disease moving forward."

To accomplish that, however, Boodram first must enter the dark cave of injection-drug use and the opioid epidemic sweeping across the U.S. landscape.

COIP's grassroots efforts to combat the opioid epidemic

As opioid availability and opioid-related overdoses continue to increase in Chicago, so, too, have efforts from SPH's Community Outreach Intervention Projects (COIP) to combat the rising public health issue.

"This is an immediate crisis we're trying to respond to," COIP director Antonio D. Jimenez confirms.

From five neighborhood field offices as well as through mobile van outreach, COIP is battling Chicago's opioid epidemic on various fronts, pairing its longstanding syringe exchange harm-

"We're all humans and all deserving of help."

— Jose Alvarez

Boodram, who first arrived at UIC in 2002 as a PhD student, currently has a pair of National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants designed to power interventions and drive much-needed change.

In the first project starting this fall, "Contextual Risk Factors for Hepatitis C among Young Persons Who Inject Drugs," Boodram is conducting a longitudinal study of 420 young people who inject drugs and approximately 1,200 of their drug-injecting network partners. Over the five-year study, Boodram will examine the role of social networks, social geography, and social norms related to drug use and sexual behaviors as well as stigma surrounding drug use and adverse outcomes such as overdoses or death.

Boodram says the novel research, one simultaneously retrospective and forward-looking, will improve understanding of the key contextual and structural factors driving hepatitis C incidence and high-risk practices, while also informing the development of innovative strategies to reduce hepatitis C and other adverse health burdens among young persons who inject drugs.

"This baseline study looks at a new generation of persons who inject drugs, examining who they are and why they're transitioning into injection," Boodram says.

With very little data on the dynamics of injection-drug use over individuals' histories, Boodram believes her study into



reduction program with a more aggressive focus on drug overdose prevention, substance abuse case management, and access to drug treatment and recovery support.

Each Wednesday, for instance, COIP case managers Jose Alvarez and Tryce Johnson join COIP's mobile team, which travels daily into urban neighborhoods hosting large groups of heroin addicts. As users exchange their "rigs," the veteran COIP case managers share overdose prevention education, note the availability of treatment options, and also provide doses of Narcan alongside usage instructions.



networks, geography, and norms can spur targeted interventions to a problem plaguing communities across the U.S.

"When we know what needs to be done, we will be able to respond faster and modify interventions accordingly," Boodram says.

As the director of SPH's Community Outreach Intervention Projects (COIP), a unit that has long focused on opioid abuse in Chicago, Antonio D. Jimenez says Boodram's specific focus on individuals in their late teens and early twenties will prove particularly valuable.

"It's an opportunity to get to these users sooner and address this public health crisis before it roots itself deeper in our communities," Jimenez says.

continued on next page...

LEFT COIP staff met Senator Richard Durbin at a press conference about possible new legislation to combat the opioid epidemic.

"Many of our clients just don't understand the most basic resources available to them," Alvarez says.

Now in his 14th year with COIP, Alvarez says opioid use has reached a level he hasn't seen before in Chicago, especially as users mix heroin with other opioids to produce even more lethal combinations.

"I'm attending more funerals than I used to," Alvarez says. "That's why this work is so important. We're all humans and all deserving of help."

...continued from page 9

In Boodram's second NIH project, an interdisciplinary, inter-institutional effort with Argonne National Laboratory, Loyola University's Stritch School of Medicine, the Food and Drug Administration, and the University of Chicago's Computational Institute among others, Boodram is serving as the principal investigator on the first comprehensive, empirical data-driven computational model for a U.S.-based population of individuals who inject drugs.

The joint effort – called the Consortium for Modeling and Analysis of Treatments and Interventions, or C-MATI – aims to develop open-source computational models that forecast disease, intervention, and treatment outcomes. For example, the group is using Chicago's drug-injecting populace, an estimated 32,000 persons who inject drugs, to hypothesize the most effective treatment strategies for the elimination of hepatitis C.

“It’s an opportunity to get to these users sooner and address this public health crisis before it roots itself deeper in our communities.” – Antonio D. Jimenez

“It’s essentially a city in a computer and a way to examine the impact of an intervention before rolling it out,” Boodram says, adding that policy makers, researchers, and clinicians across the U.S. will be able to use the open-source software to inform the rollout of prospective interventions in their communities, which might range from hepatitis C treatment scale-up to syringe service programs.

“And when you’re dealing with some of the challenges we’re seeing related to the opioid epidemic and the spread of viruses like hepatitis C,” Boodram says, “you want all the resources you can get your hands on

to spark more effective interventions and turn the tide in a different direction.” ●

New Degree in Public Health Offered in HEALTH ANALYTICS and BIG DATA

Current rapid digitization of health care data is generating massive amounts of information. Experts predict that U.S. health care data will reach a mind boggling 2,314 Exabytes by 2020 (one Exabyte is 1018 bytes). To improve the quality of healthcare delivery while reducing the costs, these massive quantities of data, known as “big data,” hold the promise of supporting a wide range of healthcare functions.

“Big health data analytics involves the application of the latest statistical and computational methods to health care data as a way of improving health outcomes and operations,” says Sreenu Konda, clinical assistant professor of biostatistics. “The demand of data scientists in health analytics has grown exponentially over the last few years, but there is only a limited supply of graduates who can meet this demand successfully.”

Starting in Fall 2019, the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics will offer a full time, two-year Master of Science

degree in Health Analytics. “This degree will use big data analytics to identify and address a wide range of healthcare needs,” explained Ron Hershov, director of epidemiology and biostatistics. The division will also offer a part time certification in Health Analytics.

This solution-driven program was developed by Konda and Dulal Bhaumik, professor of biostatistics, and Runa Bhaumik, adjunct professor. “The core

of the program will be taught with cutting-edge methods that include online data retrieval, statistical and machine learning methods, deep learning research, and an applied health analytics project,” Konda said.

“The overall goal of this program is to train our students to tackle the challenges in big health data analytics,” Hershov said. “The educational objective of this program is to provide graduate students and

professionals with formal training in analytics necessary in big health data. Our four health analytics courses with few prerequisites are open to public health and health care professionals, and graduate students with interests in big data.”



Researchers work toward improving health in Kenya – and beyond

By Daniel P. Smith

Over seven days in July, UIC School of Public Health Dean Wayne H. Giles visited Kenya for a firsthand look at the School's longstanding relationship with the East African nation of some 48 million people.



Left to right: Christine Fukuda, Alexander Kimbrough, Megan Plank, Dr. Bailey, Sara Stokes, Dean Giles, Carrie Nacht and Tingqing Wu in Kisumu, Kenya.

Giles spoke with SPH students working on the ground, engaged with local residents, and observed the execution of research projects tackling critical health issues such as sexually transmitted infections

(STIs) and drinking water. Giles called it an “eye-opening experience” that motivated and inspired.

“I could see the impact of this work at the local level, but also the way these different projects could be scaled up,” Giles said. “There are opportunities we can build on and collaborations we can deepen to feed our mission of improving health for the world’s citizens.”

In Kenya, a nation challenged by pockets of poverty and pressing health concerns, SPH researchers are delivering on that ambitious mission, blending cutting-edge scholarship with an earnest spirit to help mankind.

ESTABLISHING ROOTS IN KENYA

Soon after arriving at UIC in 1996 and spurred by an article in *Scientific American* suggesting that male circumcision might prevent HIV, professor of epidemiology Robert Bailey ventured to western Kenya, where HIV infections were commonplace and circumcision remained particularly rare.

Believing the relationship between circumcision and HIV warranted a thorough investigation, Bailey conducted a randomized control trial involving some 2,800 men over five years. The results showed that circumcision reduced HIV rates by 60 percent.

That research effort sparked Bailey to co-found an NGO called the Nyanza Reproductive Health Society (NRHS), which began scaling up circumcision across Kenya by offering free comprehensive circumcision services that included HIV testing, behavioral counseling, and treatment of STIs. Simultaneously, the work of Bailey's team prompted agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to invest in their own male circumcision programs across 13 sub-Saharan African countries devastated by HIV. To date, those programs have achieved more than 15 million circumcisions, which are estimated to prevent 2.5 million new HIV infections over the next ten years.

“We showed something was effective and then implemented evidence-based programs that built off that research. As a result, we are saving lives and minimizing suffering,” said Bailey, who has been appointed UIC Distinguished Professor.

continued on next page...



NRHS driver Jared and lab intern Hilda load the truck with supplies for a field day.

“I know we’re having a significant impact on lives and producing a positive ripple effect in the country, and that’s the most encouraging part here.” – Dr. Bailey

Over the last 16 years, NRHS has provided a platform for more than 30 other public health studies, much of the work funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Bailey, meanwhile, has extended his research into other areas of HIV and STIs, including addressing the needs of men who have sex with men.

Most recently, for instance, Bailey and his team have been working with a 725-member cohort of gay and bisexual men in Kenya, a highly stigmatized set in a country where homosexuality is illegal. The program, Anza Mapema, which means “Start Early” in Swahili, mixes medical treatment, namely the distribution of antiviral medications, with behavioral counseling and services aimed at reducing risk behaviors, such as supplying condoms and lubricants as well as substance abuse counseling and peer outreach.

“We want people infected to start treatment early and take initiative for their lives,” said Bailey, who spends approximately five months each year in Kenya. “I know we’re having a significant impact on lives and producing a positive ripple effect in the country, and that’s the most encouraging part here.”

OPENING DOORS FOR OTHERS

Bailey’s groundbreaking work in Kenya, including the trust he has cultivated between UIC, the Kenya Ministry of Health, and on-the-ground partners, has opened the door for other SPH faculty members to pursue projects in the East African nation.



Dr. Mehta

In recent years, associate professor of epidemiology Supriya Mehta has had a pair of NIH-funded projects in Kenya. In addition to collaborating on the Anza Mapema Study, her current effort investigates the use of menstrual cups in young Kenyan women as a

“I’m particularly interested in research that leads to tangible benefits in female reproductive health, which is a core human right that isn’t always given equal footing around the world.” – Dr. Mehta

means to help prevent vaginal infections and STIs, which can increase risk for HIV and threaten a young woman’s ability to conceive children.

“I’m particularly interested in research that leads to tangible benefits in female reproductive health, which is a core human right that isn’t always given equal footing around the world,” said Mehta, who first began working in Kenya in 2007 in collaboration with Bailey. “If we can demonstrate the biological mechanisms, then we can translate that research to other high-risk populations and attack a significant global problem.”

Samuel Dorevitch, an associate professor of environmental and occupational health sciences, is the most recent



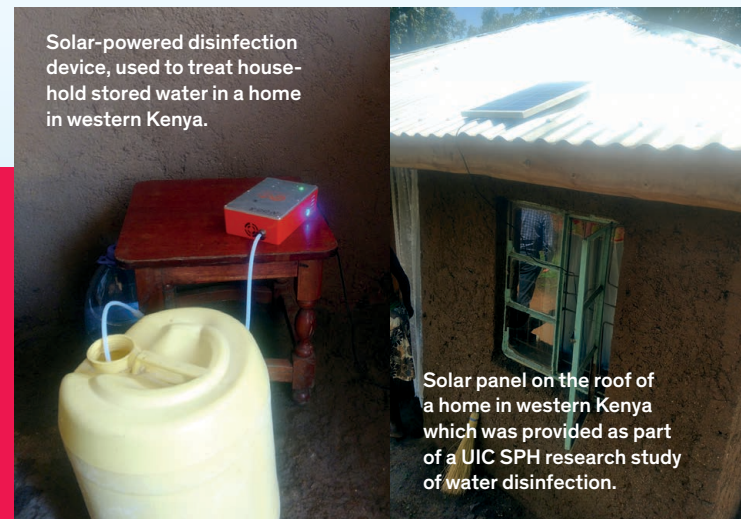
Dr. Dorevitch

SPH faculty member to enter Kenya. In January 2017, Dorevitch launched a study to assess the relationship between drinking water and pediatric health.

Teaming with a group of engineers from the University of Illinois who had developed a solar-powered method for disinfecting drinking water, Dorevitch

and his colleagues brought the technology to 10 families in Kenya thanks to a seed grant from the UIC Global Health Center. The researchers supplied the solar panels and water treatment technology before measuring the innovation’s effect on water quality as well as gauging the residents’ acceptance of the product.

“It was so successful that neighbors and friends were bringing their water over to be disinfected,” Dorevitch said.



Solar-powered disinfection device, used to treat household stored water in a home in western Kenya.

Solar panel on the roof of a home in western Kenya which was provided as part of a UIC SPH research study of water disinfection.

In September, Dorevitch spent 10 days in Kenya preparing for the project’s next step: a field study supported by The Portes Foundation to examine how the water treatment technology impacts the health of children.

“Here in Chicago, we’re accustomed to turning on the tap and getting safe drinking water, but drinking water is a matter of life and death in Kenya and many other countries around the world,” Dorevitch said. “If we can create solutions for safer drinking water, then we can make a powerful difference in lives in Kenya and beyond.”

“Here in Chicago, we’re accustomed to turning on the tap and getting safe drinking water, but drinking water is a matter of life and death in Kenya and many other countries around the world.” – Dr. Dorevitch

And that, Giles noted, is among the foremost aims of the School of Public Health, whether that improved quality of life happens here in Chicago, 8,000 miles away in Kenya, or in any other corner of the world.

“We’re committed to improving health and well-being around the world,” Giles said. “That means both disseminating our knowledge beyond Chicago as well as bringing the experiences we have abroad back to UIC to strengthen our work.” ●

Faculty member earns lifetime achievement award

Bruce Douglas, DDS, MA, MPH, MS, Professor of Health and Aging, is the latest recipient of the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is granted by Marquis Who’s Who, the world’s premier publisher of biographical profiles. It honors individuals who have notable accomplishments and leadership within their fields.

Douglas, who has served the UIC community in various roles since his first appointment as Professor of Preventive Medicine and Oral Medicine in 1962, has most recently been working with the School of Public Health to help expand UIC’s work on senescence, the science of healthy aging. “We are enhancing our teaching programs on aging and quality of life in older adults,” said Douglas. This work, he says, is relevant to the majority of departments in the health sciences colleges at UIC. “We are working with everyone, from occupational therapy



to audiology to dentistry, and of course with experts like Jay Olshansky in the School of Public Health,” Douglas said. “It’s something that I think should get a lot of attention on campus. I think everyone at UIC will one day know what senescence means.”

A significant portion of this work will focus on hearing loss, something about which Douglas is particularly passionate, as he lost his ability to hear as a result of military service during World War II and the Korean War.

Douglas grew up in Brooklyn. He earned a bachelor’s degree at Princeton. He went to dental school at New York University,

then spent two years in internship and residency in oral surgery and two more years at Columbia in a postgraduate oral surgery program. He also received a master’s in education from Columbia. In the Navy, Douglas served two years as an oral surgeon at Parris Island and in Japan and Korea.

Over the course of his career, Douglas has also been a political activist — he campaigned against the Vietnam War — and served as an elected independent Democratic

member of the Illinois General Assembly. He also sponsored many health bills and legislative initiatives that advanced women’s reproductive rights and the rights of people with disabilities.

Douglas, who has retired and been recruited back to UIC six times, plans to keep working indefinitely. “Why not? I’m fine,” said Douglas, who turned 93 in July. “I have trouble getting out of bed in the morning... I have arthritis and troubles bending and walking up and down stairs. But so what? I have to get on with it.” ●

Making a Difference in the Health of Populations Around the World

1 CANADA

Karis Barker is a second year MPH student in Community Health Sciences who traveled to Calgary and worked with The Elizabeth Fry Society. She helped to provide a wide variety of services to indigenous women to help them overcome barriers that perpetuate trauma and poverty.



Karis Barker

2 CHICAGO

Lexi Palacios is a second year MPH student in Epidemiology who worked with the Centers for Disease Control Quarantine Station at O'Hare airport in Chicago, Illinois. She supported CDC staff to decide whether ill persons could enter the United States and what measures needed to be taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including the inspection of imports that posed potential threats to human health.



Lexi Palacios

3 JORDAN

Katharine Ozenberger is a second year MS student in Epidemiology who worked with United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Amman, Jordan. Katharine's project focused on evaluating the medication pipeline and procurement of essential medicines in refugee communities. She specifically worked with pharmacy teams to identify potential causes and health effects associated with medication stock-outs.

6 BANGLADESH

Mehneez Ali is a second year MPH student in Epidemiology who worked with the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research Bangladesh (icddr,b) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Her project focused on maternal and child health, aiming to increase growth among underweight infants.

5 ECUADOR

Cindy Berumen is a second year MPH student in Community Health Sciences who interned with Runa Foundation in Ecuador. She assisted Timmy Global Health and MedWater with community health assessment and education programs, and engaged local indigenous community members in a community-based participatory research project to learn about their perceived health needs and access to traditional and Western health care practices.



Cindy Berumen

7 JAPAN

In September 2018, Dr. Susan Altfeld, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, was invited to lecture at the University of Tsukuba in Tsukuba, Japan, during their Global Science week conference. Dr. Altfeld presented on doctoral education in public health and "Engage IL," a HRSA funded geriatric workforce enhancement program for which she is an investigator.



Dr. Susan Altfeld

4 ST. KITTS

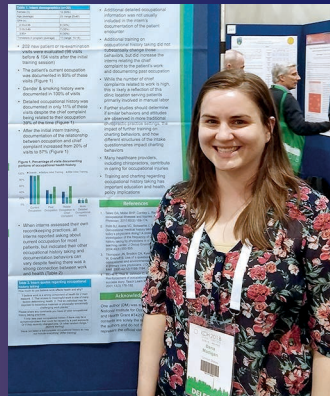
Daniel Drzewiecki is a second year MPH student in Epidemiology with a Global Health Concentration. He traveled to St. Kitts and Nevis to conduct a needs assessment for disaster preparedness which involved conducting community surveys, key informant interviews, data cleaning, data entry, and data analysis.



Daniel Drzewiecki, right

Occupational Health as a Global Health Issue

Dr. Linda Forst, Senior Associate Dean, professor of environmental and occupational health sciences (EOHS), and Director of the UIC-WHO Collaborating Center in Occupational and Environmental Health (Great Lakes Center), attended a meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO) to explore how occupational health fits into the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. Subsequently, Forst, together with four students, Tessa Bonney, Gabriela Gracia, Anitha Nimmagadda, and Dana Madigan, traveled to Dublin, Ireland in late spring to attend two meetings focused on occupational health. The first was a working meeting of the WHO Collaborating Center Network in Occupational Health. The second was the triennial meeting of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH). The largest international organization in the field of Occupational Health, ICOH's aims are to "foster the scientific progress, knowledge and development of occupational health and safety in all its aspects."



Dana Madigan, doctoral student in EOHS, presents a poster at the International Commission on Occupational Health conference in Dublin, Ireland.

The students' attendance permitted them to gain exposure to the workings of intergovernmental organizations and global health more broadly. Tessa was the Rapporteur of the WHO-CC meeting, taking minutes to document presentations and planning discussions. Gabriela, Tessa, and Dana presented in lecture and poster sessions at the ICOH Congress. These students were able to network with health professionals from around the world. It was at the ICOH conference where Anitha met Dr. Claudio Colosio from University of Milan where he is leading a multi-centered collaborative effort to write occupational disease monographs. This led to a five-week stay over the summer in Milan, Italy for Anitha. "Attending ICOH in Dublin was an amazing experience which allowed me to meet occupational health professionals from all over the world and learn about global occupational health practices. As a result, I was able to spend part of the summer at the University of Milan working with Dr. Claudio Colosio on revising the International Labor Organization (ILO) monographs on Occupational Diseases. I hope to bring the knowledge I gained during this visit back to UIC and share it with my colleagues in EOHS." The monographs will be presented to the next general assembly of the ILO.

"This was a fantastic opportunity for students to see the workings of international public health organizations and to contribute to the knowledge base in public/occupational health research, policy, and practice," said Forst. "We look forward to continued student participation in these activities."

Donors Endow Professorship in Global Health

Since 2005, Lanny and Terry Passaro have been among the most generous individual supporters to the UIC School of Public Health. Their initial support was inspired by Lanny's son, Dr. Douglas Passaro, who was an infectious disease doctor and professor of epidemiology at UIC. After Doug's death, the Passaros, along with Dr. Sherry Nordstrom, who was Doug's wife, knew that the best way to honor his legacy was to support public health students doing global health work. Together, they created the Douglas Passaro Global Horizons Scholarship. "This was a way for our family to honor Doug and to encourage others to join the fight to solve the many health challenges facing other countries who need our assistance. We hoped that some award winners would choose internationally focused careers but we knew that all of them would have an enriching experience," Lanny Passaro said.



Terry and Lanny Passaro were honored for their many years of generosity to the UIC SPH Global Health Program on October 4, 2018.

Over the past thirteen years, forty-five students have benefitted from the Passaro Scholarship. Student scholars have traveled all over the world, participating in research projects that have impacted the lives of thousands. On October 4, 2018, many of these scholars joined members of the school's Founders Circle and Legacy Society to honor the Passaro family for their significant contributions to the Global Health Program. Dr. Robert Bailey, chair of the Global Health concentration, spoke to nearly 100 guests about the ongoing support and commitment that the Passaros have had over the years. "In 2012, the Passaro family challenged the school with a matching gift opportunity: if the school could raise \$250,000 for the Global Health Program, the Passaros would match this. In less than eight months, the school raised the money and met the challenge," Dr. Bailey said. Reaching this donor initiated fundraising challenge was the largest philanthropic initiative that the school had ever undertaken.

Raising \$500,000 for the Global Health Program met the University of Illinois Foundation's requirements for a Named Professorship. Dr. Wayne H. Giles, dean of the school, spoke with the Passaros about using this support to endow a professorship in global health. "The Passaro Family Professorship in Global Health will allow us to invest these funds and provide permanent financial support to expand the Global Health Program," Dr. Giles said. "This is the first endowed professorship for the program and I look forward to recruiting a talented faculty member to advance the important

"This is the first endowed professorship for the program and I look forward to recruiting a talented faculty member to advance the important global work of our students and faculty." – Dr. Giles



Alyssa Budoff (MPH '15), Dr. Sherry Nordstrom, Dr. Janet Lin (MPH '04), and Dr. Ron Hershow

global work of our students and faculty." Dr. Giles hopes to host an investiture ceremony for this new faculty position in Spring 2019.

Alyssa Budoff (MPH '05) was a 2013 recipient of the Douglas Passaro Global Horizons Scholarship who traveled from New York to attend the reception honoring the Passaro family. As a student, she used the scholarship to participate in a disaster preparedness project in Haiti. "Receiving this scholarship absolutely prepared me for a career in global health, as I now work in the Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Division of the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security," Budoff said. "On behalf of all my fellow scholars, I can't thank the Passaro family enough for all you've made possible." ●



Terry and Lanny Passaro (center) are joined by scholarship recipients from 2009 through 2018.



Dean Wayne Giles welcomed previous dean, Dr. Paul-Brandt-Rauf, at the annual Founders Circle and Legacy Society reception.



Healthy Work Collaborative: Addressing Precarious Work through Social Change

The UIC School of Public Health’s Center for Healthy Work was established in 2016 as a research and education center that will advance the health and well-being of workers in Chicago, the state of Illinois, and the nation. Dr. Lorraine Conroy, the center’s Director, shared “Our center is one of six Centers of Excellence for Total Worker Health® whose mission is to remove barriers that impact the health of low-wage workers in the increasingly contingent workforce.”

One of the current priorities of the center is an action research approach that looks at precarious employment, a complex problem that impacts an increasing number of workers in all economic sectors. Characterized by low wages, hazardous conditions, discriminatory practices, limited opportunities for advancement, and lacking employee benefits, precarious jobs often adversely impact the health of workers, their families, and ultimately, their communities. “Our goal is to look at policy, systems and environmental initiatives to improve health for workers in precarious jobs by addressing community and structural-level barriers to health,” explained Dr. Christina

Welter, Director of the MidAmerica Center for Public Health Practice who is leading the center’s *Healthy Communities through Healthy Work (HCHW)* project.

In spring 2017, the HCHW project launched its initiative first by conducting 55 interviews with national, state, and local organizations across sectors. Additionally, over 230 partner initiatives that advance worker health were catalogued. Analysis of interviews and initiatives indicated that while labor organizations often pursue public policy action to address issues of concern, public health and healthcare organizations are more likely to conduct trainings or develop internal business policies.

Findings from the interviews also highlighted public health and healthcare organizations’ limited knowledge about precarious employment. Evidence highlighted a lack of collaboration between health and labor organizations despite the fact that public health and healthcare organizations recognize work as a key social determinant of health. Findings were used to develop the next phase of the project, which included an intersectoral capacity building initiative called the Healthy Work Collaborative.

Hosted at the UIC School of Public Health, the Healthy Work Collaborative invited public health and health care organizations to engage with labor, government, and non-profit organizations. “Our goal was to bring together a diverse group of organizations to address work-related issues to jointly catalyze policy, systems, and environmental change,” Welter said. Eight teams of multi-sectoral partners were selected to participate in the six-session exploratory process. Representatives from the labor sector provided technical assistance and facilitated training on Power Mapping, Theory of Change, and Action Planning to help these organizations define precarious work and build organizational capacity to create change.

The Healthy Work Collaborative teams are looking forward to moving into the implementation phase in the fall of 2018. “Examples of team projects include the development of trainings for hospital workers to

“Our goal is to look at policy, systems and environmental initiatives to improve health for workers in precarious jobs by addressing community and structural-level barriers to health.” –Dr. Welter

identify and address workplace exploitation in their patient population, as well as the exploration of co-production of enforcement between local public health departments and labor organizations,” shared Welter. An example is public health department restaurant

inspectors helping to educate restaurant managers about wage theft and other policies that go beyond food safety and quality.



Members of the *Healthy Work Collaborative to Map Action for Social Change* met for the first time at UIC SPH in Spring 2018.

Welter and the Healthy Communities through Healthy Work team were awarded the Public Health Program of Excellence Award at the Illinois Public Health Association’s Annual Event on September 6, 2018 in Bloomington, Illinois, for their work with public health partners through the Healthy Work Collaborative. ●



For more information about the Center for Healthy Work, visit publichealth.uic.edu/healthywork.

Unique Course Examines Epidemics of Injustice

By Marissa Grott

“This [course] is cutting-edge. History is cutting-edge. This is a radical approach to addressing public health issues.” — Anna Yankelev

The UIC School of Public Health is home to various student interest groups, allowing public health students to get involved in activities of interest to them. In the Summer of 2012, students formed the group called Radical Public Health (√RPH), a collective of students, alumni, faculty, staff, practitioners and community members committed to understanding and addressing the systemic causes of health inequities through radical solutions. Their logo is reminiscent of a math equation, but the square root sign (√) they use helps answer the question, “What is RPH?” The answer is a group of concerned individuals who choose projects that “get to the root” of health inequities.



Results from a Spring 2017 student led environmental scan made it abundantly clear that students wanted to better understand threats to public health beyond public health approaches. SPH students recognized that current social justice concerns such as police brutality, xenophobia and rising income inequities directly impact health equity and they wanted to do more. When √RPH members brought these results to Dr. Susan Altfeld, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, she volunteered to help create the course Epidemics of Injustice: Understanding History to Fight for a Liberated Future, which focused on the histories of the programs, policies and prejudices that gave rise to many social justice and health equity concerns we see today.



RPH students sharing their social media activism for Reproductive Justice

Altfeld agreed such a course would be a welcome addition to the SPH curriculum, as it aligns with the school’s mission statement that affirms the link between health equity and social justice. Additionally, she had long identified students’ desires for a deeper, better understanding of many social justice concerns in a curriculum that focuses predominately on system and management issues.

The Dean’s Office was exceptionally supportive of the curriculum addition, fast tracking the course for a Spring 2018 launch. The course was held for two-hours, every other week. Each session was

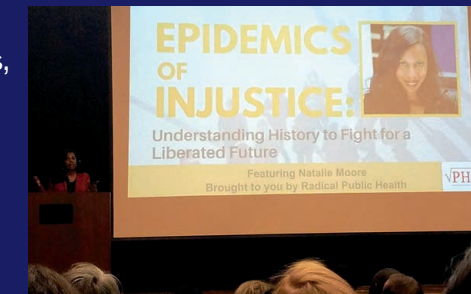
comprised of a one-hour lecture by an expert presenter (historians, practitioners, community activists) and a student-facilitated discussion session, which included an Action/Advocacy Activity. Presenters included Carol Caref from the Chicago Teachers Union, Natalie Moore from WBEZ, and author Becky Pettite.

The lecture portion of the course was open to the community at large, while the discussion and activity portions were for students and faculty only. Additionally, registered students were required to create a final poster presentation that provided historical context for a health inequity/social justice issue. Final poster presentations “Health in One of America’s Most Segregated Cities” and “Inequities of (In)Complete Streets” were featured at DePaul University’s 2018 Health Disparities and Social Justice conference.



Students and faculty attend Mike Ervin’s lecture on Disability Justice

Participants in the course chose topics which were both timely and Chicago-focused such as “Prison/ Policing,” “Reproductive Justice” and “Immigration.” Across the span of 14 weeks, *Epidemics of Injustice* offered seven lectures to over 300 registrants.



Natalie Moore lectures to a full auditorium on segregation in Chicago.

One of the key objectives of *Epidemics of Injustice* was to create a course in which participants would have the opportunity to understand how historical decisions created today’s health inequities, and to define the role that public health professionals play

in mitigating these inequities. √RPH believes that providing participants with an understanding of this broader historical context will help inform more effective, sustainable interventions. Among several overwhelmingly positive results, a post course survey identified a 76 percent increase in one’s “understanding of historical and structural issues that impact the public’s health” and a 228 percent increase in one’s “sense of how to take practical action to resist threats to the public health”. Furthermore, 96 percent of participants agreed that they were “committed to recognizing history and rectifying historical injustices through public health learning, research, and practice.”

“Public health is not siloed; It is everywhere. This [course] is cutting-edge. History is cutting-edge. This is a radical approach to addressing public health issues,” said Anna Yankelev, MPH/MBA candidate who was a critical voice in the course conception. ●

Epidemics of Injustice will be offered again in Spring 2019. Contact rph.uic@gmail.com to learn more.

Celebrating the Achievements of Students, Alumni, Faculty and Staff

KAREN AGUIRRE (MPH '17) was named one of the 2018 35 Under 35 Young Leaders Making an Impact by Chicago Scholars.

ANGELICA ALONSO, MD/MPH candidate in Epidemiology, received the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Fellowship.

MARIA ARGOS, PhD, Associate Professor of Epidemiology, was named the 2017 Rising Star Researcher of the year in the field of Clinical Sciences by the University of Illinois at Chicago.



Dr. Maria Argos

BAKARI BAKER (MPH '10), doctoral candidate in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, received the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Fellowship.

JUANA BALLESTEROS (MPH '05) and Suzet McKinney (DrPH '09) were selected for the Leadership Greater Chicago Fellows program, a select group of 40 accomplished and diverse individuals who work to effect transformative change in Chicago.

KEE CHAN, PhD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Administration, was selected to conduct a course at the Centers of Disease Control University titled *Communicating Effectively with Policymakers: The Art of Translating Science*.

XINQI DONG, MD, (MPH '10), has been named director of Rutgers University's Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research.



XinQi Dong

to receive the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award.

DAVID DUBOIS, PhD, Professor of Community Health Sciences, was named Associate Dean of Research at the UIC School of Public Health.

LINDA FORST, MD, MPH, Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, has been named Senior Associate Dean for the UIC School of Public Health.

KARISSA FRAZIER (B.A. '18) was honored by the Chicago White Sox with the Roland Hemond Award for her outstanding efforts with Gift of Life.

JOHN A HERRMANN, DVM, MPH, Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and **YVETTE J. JOHNSON-WALKER**, DVM, MS, PhD, instructor in Bachelor of Arts program, edited and wrote three chapters in a book titled *Beyond One Health: from Recognition to Results*.



Karissa Frazier, center

FEYGELE JACOBS (DrPH '17) has been named one of Crain's New York Business 2018 Notable Women in Health Care. She is currently the President & CEO of RCHN Community Health Foundation in New York.



Feygele Jacobs

ERIC JOHNSON (MPH '06) has been elevated to shareholder by the firm Simmons Hanly Conroy. Mr. Johnson focuses his practice on pharmaceutical litigation, representing individuals who have been injured by dangerous drugs and defective medical devices.



Eric Johnson

RODNEY JOHNSON (B.A. '17) and MPH candidate, was named a Schweitzer Fellow where he will work to design and implement a project that helps address the health needs of underserved Chicago communities.

MICHELE KELLEY, PhD, Associate Professor of Community Health Sciences, and **MAYRA ESTELLA** (PhD '14), Research Fellow at the UIC Institute for Minority Research, published a study called *Exploring the Meanings of Place Attachment Among Civically Engaged Puerto Rican Youth*.

ALYSON KLAUSING (MPH '18) is the recipient of Global Health Corps Fellowship. As a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, she will be working with Dignitas International in Malawi.



Alyson Klausing

KATHARYN KRYDA, DVM, (MPH '18), received the ASPPH/National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Public Health Fellowship in the Office of Emergency Medical Services.

LESLEY LOPEZ (B.A. '18) has been awarded the U.S. State Department Benjamin A. Gilman scholarship to study in Santiago De Los Caballeros, Dominican Republic.



Lesly Lopez

SUZET MCKINNEY (DrPH '09) and **MARY ELISE PAPKE** (DrPH '11) co-authored a book titled *Public Health Emergency Preparedness: A Practical Approach for the Real World*.

SUZET MCKINNEY (DrPH '09) was named a Chicago Notable Women in Healthcare.

LISA POWELL, PhD, Director and Distinguished Professor of Health Policy and Administration, was invited by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Argentina to participate at the first meeting of the G20 working group on health in Buenos Aires where she gave a lecture titled *Burden of Disease and the Economic Cost of Obesity*. Dr. Powell was also invited to give the Keynote address at the ADB-ADBI-WHO Obesity and Fiscal Policy Training Workshop held in Manila, Philippines titled *Tax Policy Design and Health Impact in Asia*.

PAULA RUSCA (MPH '16) is currently a Lab Manager at the Behavioral Insights and Parenting Lab at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy where she is managing a large scale research project (MPACT) and coordinating 30+ research assistants.

RYAN SALZMAN (B.A. '17) started a full time research position with World Vision Jordan, where he will be traveling to Azraq and Zaatari refugee camps to observe and monitor their project's impact.

MAYUKO TAKAMIYA (MPH '17) accepted a CDC Global Health fellowship where she will be working as an Epidemiology fellow at the Division of HIV and TB in Harare, Zimbabwe.

URSZULA TYL (B.A. '16) has been accepted into the Jeffco Leadership Academy and the Colorado Public Health Association Mentoring Program.

HEATHER VENKAT (DVM '13, MPH '14) became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, a board certification frequently pursued by veterinarians working in public health. She is currently employed as a CDC Career Epidemiology Field Officer assigned to the Arizona Department of Health Services.

CHRISTINA R. WELTER, DrPH, MPH, Associate Director of DrPH in Leadership, Director of the MidAmerica Center for Public Health Practice, and Clinical Assistant Professor of Community Health Sciences, is the recipient of the of the Public Health Program of Excellent Award from



Michael Wesbecher

the Illinois Public Health Association.

MICHAEL J. WESBECHER (MPH '15) accepted the position of Director of Communications and Events for the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System.

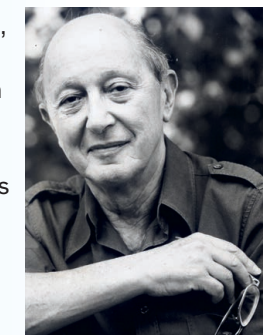
MORGAN YOUNG, MHA candidate, was selected for the *Scholars and Leaders in Interprofessional Geriatrics summer program*, a HRSA funded program to train more professionals in geriatrics.

The following deaths were reported to the UIC School of Public Health.

UIC SPH remembers them for their contributions to the field of public health.

SAMUEL S. EPSTEIN, MD

Dr. Epstein was a pioneer, trailblazer and leader in his field, known for his many contributions on avoidable causes of cancer. Over the course of his career, he became an internationally recognized authority on the avoidable causes of cancer, particularly unknowing exposures to industrial carcinogens in air, water, the workplace, and consumer products. Dr. Epstein often served as a key expert on the banning of hazardous products and pesticides including DDT, Aldrin and Chlordane. He has published some 270 peer reviewed articles, and authored or co-authored 20 books including: the prize-winning 1978 "The Politics of Cancer." In 2017, UIC SPH held an investiture ceremony to honor Sam and his wife, Cathy, for creating a term professorship in cancer prevention that resides in the Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences.



BAMBADE SHAKOOR-ABDULLAH, PHD '92, MS

Dr. Shakoor-Abdullah devoted her life to improving the public's health and demonstrated this commitment through her work to improve the quality of life for African American youth. As the first African American to earn a PhD from the UIC School of Public Health, her work took her into the Chicago Public Schools, Cook County Jails, Chicago Housing Authority, local churches, the Illinois General Assembly and many national organizations. She impacted the lives of thousands of youth through programs she developed, including the groundbreaking survey of youth witnessing violence in the Chicago Public Schools. In 2016, UIC SPH honored her with the Health Equity Award in part for her efforts to pave the way for our understanding of how trauma affects youth.





New Assistant Dean for Advancement Joins UIC SPH

Kaye Oberhausen, MA, MBA, joined the School of Public Health as its new Assistant Dean for Advancement, effective September 17, 2018. “I am extremely pleased to announce that Kaye is joining the SPH advancement team. Her responsibilities include leading the team in planning and managing all advancement-focused programs designed to increase philanthropic support for funding priorities that are aligned with the strategic objectives of the school,” said Wayne H. Giles, dean. “We look forward to her expertise in fundraising as we near the half way mark in the university’s IGNITE campaign.”

Most recently, Oberhausen served as the Development Director for the Chicago Chapter of The Posse Foundation, a youth leadership and college success non-profit.

While at Posse, she led all fundraising efforts for Posse Chicago including major gifts, corporate and foundation giving and board management. “Posse Chicago raised its budget for the first time in its 15-year history under Kaye’s leadership,” said Nancy Hershfield, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Advancement, who lead the search for SPH. “Kaye also closed the largest major gift in Posse Chicago history. She was seen as a leader at the national non-profit and we felt she was a great fit for us here at UIC.”

Prior to her work at Posse, Kaye served as the Associate Director of Development for the Chicago conservation non-profit Openlands for over four years. She led individual giving efforts and executed and planned large-scale events for the organization, increasing event revenue. She also served as a leader on the

strategic planning committee, helping to develop the next five-year plan for both fundraising and programmatic growth for the organization.

“I am thrilled to be joining the outstanding team at the School of Public Health as we work to develop and strengthen our philanthropy and alumni engagement efforts,” Oberhausen said. “The opportunity to be a part of a school with a history of significant public health impact locally, nationally and globally is truly exciting. I hope to make a meaningful contribution and look forward to the exciting challenges ahead.” Kaye can be reached at kayeo@uic.edu or 312-355-4501. ●

Alumni Learning Series Addresses



RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

Alumni Learning Series 2018 panelists included Drs. David Ansell, Camara Jones and Linda Rae Murray



Each year, the UIC School of Public Health hosts an Alumni Learning Series event to engage alumni, donors and friends



Dean Giles, center, welcomed Founders Circle members and other guests to a pre-event reception before the presentation.

around a current topic. This year, the school hosted Dr. Camara Jones, Senior Fellow of the Satcher Health Leadership Institute and Cardiovascular Research Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine, to discuss

racism as a public health issue. “Racism unfairly disadvantages some individuals and communities. Every unfair disadvantage has its reciprocal unfair advantages,” Jones said. “Racism is unfairly advantaging some communities.”

Jones, a family physician and epidemiologist whose work focuses on the impacts of racism on the health and well-being of the nation, drew a crowd that left many attendees standing in the back of the auditorium. Nearly 250 attended in person or watched the presentation that was live-streamed (to view the presentation, visit publichealth.uic.edu/news).

Dr. Linda Rae Murray, Chief Medical Officer at Cook County Health and Hospital System, and Dr. David Ansell, Senior Vice President for Community Health Equity and Senior Provost for Community Affairs at Rush University, joined Jones for an inspiring panel discussion. “We need more people with a sense of urgency to dismantle racism and create a new system where all people can develop to their full potential,” said Jones. ●

Congratulations to the Class of 2018

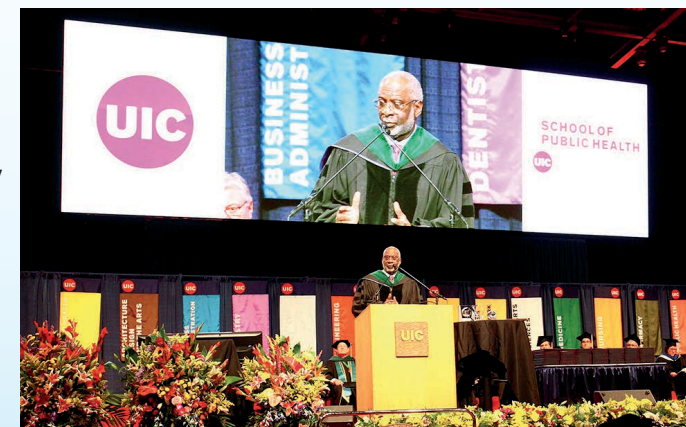


Dean Giles presents an award to Dr. Latania Logan

Nearly 200 graduates were celebrated at the UIC School of Public Health commencement ceremony on May 12, 2018. Graduates and their guests were welcomed by the school’s dean, Wayne H. Giles, who presided over the ceremony for the first time since becoming the school’s dean. “It is a privilege to be charged with the education and development of the next generation of public health leaders. A privilege that our faculty and esteemed guests respect and are committed to fulfilling,” said Giles.

UIC’s Chancellor, Michael D. Amiridis, had the honor of introducing this year’s guest speaker, David Satcher, MD, who is the Founding Director and Senior Advisor for the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta. Satcher previously served as the 16th Surgeon General of the United States and the 10th Assistant Secretary for Health in the Department of Health and Human Services.

“My work in public health has included the opportunity to serve in several key roles, where I confronted the lack of emphasis on the brain and the need for more programs to protect and promote the health of the brain,” Satcher said. He spoke about a public health responsibility to create an environment that is healthy for brain development, including working to promote immunizations for all children, creating safe communities, and addressing health disparities.



Dr. David Satcher delivers the commencement address

Satcher inspired the graduates to continue to focus on the development of their brains and the brains of others – especially, children. He championed the idea of investing in leadership development programs for themselves and future colleagues of public health. “We need leaders who care enough, know enough, and have the courage to do enough until the job is done. We need you at your best!”

An important part of the ceremony was the presentation of awards. The Bernard H. Baum Golden Apple Award and the Silver Circle Award were presented to Dr. Emily Stiehl and Funlayo Apantaku-Onayemi, respectively. Both were chosen for their outstanding teaching and extraordinary service to students.

The Alan W. Donaldson Memorial Award, named for UIC SPH’s first Associate Dean, is given to a student who demonstrates academic excellence, leadership and service. This year, it was presented to Dr. Latania Logan, who earned a Master of Science degree in epidemiology

while working as the Chief of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Rush University. “Already a recognized scholar in antimicrobial resistance, she entered our program to advance her command of research methods,” said Dr. Linda Forst, Senior Associate Dean. Forst said Logan was selected in part because she mentored residents, graduate students, and fellows and volunteered in the community.

After the conferral of degrees, Todd Stankewicz, MBA, (MPH ‘01), Co-chair of the SPH Alumni Council, encouraged the new graduates to stay connected to their alma mater. Stankewicz urged the graduates to get involved by attending alumni events, hosting a student intern, or volunteering and donating to the school. ●

2018 Annual Alumni Celebration

The UIC School of Public Health held its Annual Alumni Celebration on April 5, 2018 at the Chicago History Museum. More than 200 guests toured the museum's special exhibit *Race: Are We So Different*, followed by dinner and an awards ceremony. This year's awardees were Bogdan Catalin (PhD '10, MS '07), Rosalie Guttman (PhD '89), Suzet M. McKinney (DrPH '09) and Philip Ricks (PhD '08, MPH '98).

20
18

Annual Alumni

CELEBRATION



LEFT Members of the UIC SPH Recent Graduate Board



More than 200 alumni, donors and friends attended the 2018 annual celebration.



Guests enjoyed touring the special exhibit *Race: Are We So Different?*

ALUMNI AWARDEES

Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award
Suzet M. McKinney, DrPH '09

Dr. Jacob Brody Epidemiology and Biostatistics Alumni Achievement Award
Philip Ricks, PhD '08, MPH '98

Dr. Naomi Morris Alumni Achievement Award for Community Health Sciences
Rosalie Guttman, PhD '89

Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Alumni Achievement Award
Bogdan Catalin, PhD '10, MS '07

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 28, 2019, 6:00 PM
Annual Alumni Celebration

Willis Tower Sky Deck
233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606

Urban Health Program Celebrates 40th Anniversary

The UIC Urban Health Program (UHP) celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a gala on September 22, 2018 and 15 public health alumni, faculty and staff were honored for their contributions to health-related fields. The mission of the UHP is to provide programming, resources, and support for pre-health and health professional students, dedicated to addressing persistent health disparities in minority populations and improving the quality and availability of healthcare in underserved urban areas. UIC students enrolled in UHP receive a comprehensive orientation for health professional programs, an academic seminar series, test preparation, individualized mentoring, career planning, and networking opportunities. Since its inception in 1978, UHP has recruited, retained and graduated more than 7,000 traditionally underrepresented students who now work in health-related fields.

UHP program directors are in all of the health science colleges at UIC and Dr. Nadine Peacock serves as Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion at the School of Public Health. In this role, Dr. Peacock and her colleagues work to have meaningful inclusion and integration of groups and individuals as part of an active process to enhance the work and educational environment of the School of Public Health. This is a deliberate step towards equity and social justice.

"I can't emphasize enough how influential the Urban Health Program has been on the success of our public health students over the years," said Dr. Peacock. "Some of our most accomplished alumni were participants in UHP pipeline programs at the elementary, high school, undergraduate and graduate levels. Many of these alumni now serve as valued community partners as well as mentors to our current students. We are honored to have so many of them recognized at the anniversary event."

The diverse student body at the School of Public Health was one of the main reasons that Wayne Giles was interested in moving to Chicago to become the school's 6th dean in 2017. As the first African American to hold the post, Dr. Giles said he was energized by the opportunity to engage more students with public health. "Our mission is committed to diversity. By celebrating the unique contributions of students, faculty, and staff, we support a more enriching learning environment and foster a truly global community," Giles said. "We strive to build an



School of Public Health honorees at the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the UIC Urban Health Program

inclusive community that promotes SPH's commitment to justice, respect, and humility for the communities served by the public health field."

Several public health students and staff volunteered to help make the 40th celebration a success. Two current students, Rodney Johnson and Darlene Nalasco Magana, were honored as 2018 Student Achievers and the following SPH alumni, faculty and staff who were recognized as Distinguished Honorees:

- Sikiru Adefuye (MPH '99)
- Ms. Karen Aguirre (MPH '17)
- Dr. Shaffdeen Amuwo (MPH '76)
- Dr. Lisa Aponte Soto (PhD '13)
- Dr. Damon Arnold (MPH '92)
- Dr. Mabel Blackwell
- Dr. Joseph Day (DrPH '11)
- Dr. Rosalba Hernandez (MS '10, PhD '12)
- Dr. Wade Ivy (PhD '09)
- Dr. Michael A. McGee (MPH '96)
- Dr. Suzet McKinney (DrPH '09)
- Dr. Bambade Shakoor-Abdullah (PhD '92)
- Ms. Curtisteen Steward
- Dr. Kathy Tossas-Milligan (PhD '18)
- Mr. Juan Wantig (MPH '18)

events

2019 Events

Please consider joining us for the following events:

MARCH 7, 2019, 6:00 PM
Alumni Learning Series
"Effective Strategies for Addressing the Opioid Epidemic"
 UIC School of Public Health
 1603 W. Taylor Street, Chicago, IL 60612

MARCH 28, 2019, 6:00 PM
Annual Alumni Celebration
 Willis Tower Sky Deck
 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606

MAY 23, 2019, 5:30 PM
Healthy Spirits
 Plymouth Rooftop Bar
 325 S. Plymouth Court, Chicago, IL 60604

For more information on all of these events, visit publichealth.uic.edu/alumni.

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