

Healthviews

FALL 2013 >> VOLUME 11 >> ISSUE TWO

A photograph of an older man and woman sitting on grass, stretching their legs forward. The man is on the left, wearing a blue t-shirt and grey shorts, with blue and white sneakers. The woman is on the right, wearing a pink zip-up jacket and dark pants, with black and white sneakers. Both are smiling at the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage.

Public Health Strengthens Research
TO PROMOTE HEALTHY AGING

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PRACTICUM PLACEMENTS PROVIDE REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE |

CORPORATE AMERICA AND PUBLIC HEALTH | HIGHER EDUCATION AT A CROSSROADS



Photo taken by Allyson Zeedrich (MPH '13) during a trip to Copacabana, Bolivia. The Aymara New Year on June 21st is a national holiday in Bolivia, which celebrates the winter solstice. On this day the sun is farthest from the earth, marking the beginning of a new agricultural cycle. A vigil with rituals and alcohol is carried out throughout the night on the 20th until the new day dawns and the sun emits its first rays.

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

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.



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

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The fall is always a busy time at UIC SPH, and this year it seems even busier. With a new class of both graduate and undergraduate students joining us, our enrollment is now over 900 students - the largest student body since the school's

founding over 40 years ago. Our faculty are not only back teaching, but they are working hard to fulfill our mission of serving the communities in which we live, work and play. Out of these many exciting projects, I'm very proud that UIC SPH has been chosen as a site where Illinois outreach workers are learning about the Affordable Care Act. With a grant from the Illinois Department of Insurance, our faculty are training counselors that will educate people about their new options and enroll them for coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace (you can read more about this on page 12).

In this issue of *Healthviews*, you'll read about many different things happening at UIC SPH. On page 2, you'll read about how real world experiences help our students get a feel for what a career in public health will look like.

On page 4, UIC's commitment to reducing disparities in healthy aging is highlighted, and you'll read about the key role that our school is playing in this effort. Other key research taking place at UIC SPH is showcased on pages 12-13, where each of our four divisions are highlighted.

The Advancing Health section of this issue includes a message from the University of Illinois President, Bob Easter, and a profile on an alumna who made very generous plans to include UIC SPH in her estate plans so that she can support future public health professionals that choose a career in industrial hygiene.

Lastly, I hope you enjoy reading the two pieces that profile alumnae who are using their public health degrees in much needed global health areas: on page 10 is an article written by M. Sophia Newman (MPH '11) who is living in Bangladesh and on page 22 you are invited to enjoy the beautiful photography submitted by Sarah Cole Kramerer (MPH '12).

As always, I look forward to having you join us at one of the many events we have planned during the year.

Paul Brandt-Rauf, DrPH, MD, ScD
Dean, UIC School of Public Health

FIELD EXPERIENCES

PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE REAL WORLD

*Help Prepare Students
Does your agency have practicum
opportunities you'd like to
make available to students?
Please contact Annette Clemens,
Field Practicum Coordinator, at
312-355-4272 or ajc@uic.edu.*

A field experience or practicum is required of all MPH students in the School of Public Health. Each practicum is designed to give students supervised practical application of a previously or concurrently studied theory of public health. Two students share their first hand experiences “in the field.”

Mary Gabis, a Health Policy Administration student, had the opportunity to complete a practicum for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the Midwest Regional Office, Food & Nutrition Services in Public Affairs. Her experience focused on the GoodGreens initiative, whose members seek to grow and support local food systems.



Preceptor Dr. Rosie Banks (right) and Muriel Tate, R.N. (center) assist Lindsay Zimmerman with gathering patient swabs at Cook County Hospital.

Second year Epidemiology student, Lindsay Zimmerman, worked her practicum as a Research Assistant for a project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The project, titled “Regional Evaluation of a Legislative Mandate to Screen Patients for MRSA: Impact on MRSA ICU Prevalence” (REALM), is part of the CDC’s Epicenter Prevention Program in Chicago, which is one of five Epicenters in the United States.

“The primary aim of this project is to evaluate the success of the Illinois-mandated active surveillance program in achieving its goal of decreasing methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) prevalence among ICU patients,” explains Zimmerman. MRSA is a term used to describe a number of strains of the bacteria that are resistant to many antibiotics. “My learning objectives for the practicum included understanding the steps involved in organizing and executing a citywide and CDC funded research study, developing skills in maintaining and analyzing study data, developing my previous microbiology research skills and applying this knowledge to public health research.” To meet these learning objectives, Zimmerman regularly assisted her preceptor, Dr. Rosie Banks, MD, MHA, with hospital visits to gather the MRSA swabs from ICU patients, process human specimen cultures, and enter and analyze research data. “Not only have I been able to take part in many of the inner workings of a citywide research study, but I have also been provided with a unique snapshot into Chicago’s vast hospital network.”



Mary Gabis receives direction from preceptor Alan Shannon.

One of Gabis’ primary responsibilities was to maintain a database of the 400 members of GoodGreens, which she used to create the communications that are sent out every 7 to 10 days. Communications included news articles, grants, events and opportunities, as well as meeting information and summaries. “Through composing these email blasts, I had the opportunity to research and share information from articles covering a wide spectrum of local food initiatives, and how they are improving public health,” says Gabis. She learned how memberships of GoodGreens are maintained, how information is distributed to existing and potential members, organized monthly meetings and served as the main point of contact for presenters and attendees.

“Through this experience, I have gained a unique insight into the local food industry in the Midwest and how different organizations are striving to create a positive change in public health through food. One opportunity I had to witness was visiting Growing Home, an urban garden in Englewood. This organization uses growing organic agriculture for job training and community development in this lower socioeconomic area.”

“During the course of their work, Lindsay and Mary not only learned something valuable, but they were able to network with several individuals working within their fields of interest,” says Annette Clemens, Field Practicum Coordinator at UIC SPH. “This exposure puts them in a good position to launch successful careers in public health.” ■

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) is the most comprehensive reform of the U.S. medical system in at least 45 years. What is the most significant opportunity that this reform will have on the field of public health?

UIC COMMUNITY WEIGHS IN...



What an exciting time to be in public health! Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, starting October 1, uninsured can select from a variety of health plans offering comprehensive health coverage on the Health Insurance Marketplace. Most of these uninsured will qualify for assistance in paying their monthly health plan premium. No longer will people be excluded because of pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or asthma. The focus on prevention and access to quality, affordable healthcare will be key factors in reducing health disparities.

Brenda Delgado, MPH '01
External Affairs Liaison, Consortium for Medicaid, and Children’s Health



The ACA will place a greater importance on the Public Health sector at the National level. Through this, newly formed agencies such as the National Prevention Council will drive increased funding, resources, and organization.

Kyle Kingston, MPH Candidate
President, Association of Future Healthcare Administrators



The Affordable Care Act takes significant steps towards expanding coverage and improving access to health care while also improving the quality and affordability of health care for all Americans. Free preventive services will play a critical role in improving public’s health. Beginning October 1st, go to www.healthcare.gov to see health insurance options in your state and enroll in a health plan.

Amy Hennessy, MPH '02
Technical Director, Consortium for Medicaid, and Children’s Health



I think that access to healthcare insurance for previously uninsured populations will create one set of opportunities for individuals seeking improved health care and also for healthcare systems that can develop new processes to provide quality care.

Emily Stiehl, PhD
Clinical Assistant Professor
Health Policy and Administration



For the first time, hundreds of thousands of people will have access to healthcare in ways that have never been possible. For public health and the populations we serve, it will give us the opportunity to put prevention to work; continuing our work to make tangible behavioral changes for improved health outcomes, while at the same time enabling our residents to connect to healthcare that can reinforce those prevention messages and activities.

Suzet M. McKinney, DrPH '09, MPH
Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Response AND
Division of Women & Children’s Health
Chicago Department of Public Health



Closing the gap on coverage and emphasizing improvements in population health make the ACA extremely important. The door is open to other incremental advances such as including undocumented residents of the US and increasing the investment in public health.

Richard H. Sewell, MPH
Associate Dean
Community and Public Health Practice

Campus Strengthening Research to Reduce Disparities in Healthy Aging

WITH AN EYE ON A GRAYING AMERICA, THE University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) is building on its foundation of research promoting the health of older adults, especially African Americans and Latinos.

Through a funding initiative by Chancellor Paula Allen Meares, the UIC School of Public Health and the College of Applied Health Sciences will hire an interdisciplinary cluster of five new faculty members, host symposia and recruit doctoral students to focus on this critical area of study.

The population of older adults is growing faster than any other in the United States. By 2030, almost one in five Americans will be age 65 or older, presenting an unprecedented demand on the health care system and aging-related services, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Although the health of older adults in the United States is improving, “we have significant disparities in health outcomes

and quality of life for minority older adults,” said Susan L. Hughes, professor of community health sciences and co-leader of this cluster, who also directs UIC SPH’s Center for Research on Health and Aging at the Institute for Health Research and Policy (IHRP). “We need to take steps now to improve the quality of life for all older adults in the U.S. The consequences of not doing that are too horrible to contemplate,” she said, citing a “pandemic of disability” and skyrocketing health care costs.

Not just older people would benefit from this research, said Tamar Heller, professor and head of disability and human development in the College of Applied Health Sciences and director of the Institute on Disability and Human Development. “As people with long-term disabilities live longer, they experience a cascade of health disparities,” Heller said. “Bridging research and practice to address both aging and disability can improve outcomes for both older adults and adults with disabilities.”

Hughes and Heller were architects of the proposal to expand UIC’s healthy aging research. Under this initiative, faculty from diverse backgrounds will be recruited for five positions over the next four years. The new faculty will conduct their research at the Institute for Health Research and Policy, which fosters interdisciplinary health research among faculty from ten colleges on campus, through the Center for Research on Health and Aging. The work of this cluster of faculty builds on that center’s history of intervention research focusing on older minority adults that has been

“We need to take steps now to improve the quality of life for all older adults in the U.S. The consequences of not doing that are too horrible to contemplate.”



Professor Tamar Heller

conducted with Roybal Center funding from the National Institute on Aging.

“We look forward to supporting these new faculty members in their research collaborations and drawing others to this important mission,” said Robin Mermelstein, director of IHRP.

Besides strengthening intervention research for older minority adults, the initiative’s funding will support two symposia, intended to “catalyze cross-agency and cross-organization collaboration on making Chicago an aging-friendly city,” Hughes said. The funding also will foster continuing education for older adults and support an increased offering of interdisciplinary courses in aging studies on campus.

A steering committee led by Paul Brandt-Rauf, the dean of the School of Public Health, will oversee the hiring of faculty and the initiative’s implementation. Joining him will be Bo Fernhall, dean of the College of Applied Health Sciences, Hughes, Mermelstein, Heller and chairs of the departments participating in this initiative.

“The selection committee envisioned (Hughes and Heller’s) proposal as one that would increase the diversity of our faculty while also growing translational and engaged research at UIC,” says Chancellor Allen Meares. ■

The Campaign for Healthy Aging

Healthy aging research and translation has always been a priority for the UIC School of Public Health. Faculty and students, under the direction of Center for Research on Health and Aging Director Susan Hughes, are engaged in projects investigating a variety of physical, social and emotional risk factors impacting the ability of a person to age healthily. This research includes, but is certainly not limited to:

- an internationally recognized exercise program scientifically-proven to prevent osteoarthritis;
- prevention of falls and identification of risk factors in older adults;
- promoting healthy aging in adults with developmental disabilities;
- obesity prevention and maintenance in African American and Latino populations.

The diverse array of research is due to the interdisciplinary nature of the Center for Research on Health and Aging; faculty hail from departments of Psychology, Nursing, Physical Therapy and Medicine. And, because UIC is one of a few academic institutions in the nation with a true health sciences campus with colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing, Applied Health Sciences and Public Health, our faculty take a wholistic approach to solving real world healthy aging problems.



The Chancellor’s Cluster Hire Award and the many pending changes to the US healthcare industry from the Affordable Care Act have made the work of our faculty even more crucial. This new focus on preventive care opens many doors for our faculty and students, and the school must be ready to seize them.

The UIC School of Public Health will be embarking on a mini-fundraising campaign to build the capacity of our researchers and create more opportunities for our students to be mentored by our world-renowned faculty. The priorities include:

- Scholarships for students, enabling them to work within the center or to accept internships related to healthy aging.
- Named professorships for faculty which allow them to spend more time working side by side with students and members of the community.
- Awards recognizing research and practice excellence of students and faculty.
- Enrichment grants providing opportunities for students to attend and present their research at professional meetings and conferences.
- And, general support allowing the center to hire support staff and purchase resources necessary to run a world-class center.

Private support of the UIC SPH Center for Research on Health and Aging will enable our faculty and students to have a significant impact on the health of our aging population. The research and translation opportunities are endless, and with your help we can make a difference.

If you are interested in supporting or have questions about the Center for Research on Health and Aging, please contact Craig Hyland, assistant dean for advancement, at craigh@uic.edu or 312-355-4501.



Susan L. Hughes (center) demonstrating the Fit and Strong! program.

ALUMNI MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE FOR-PROFIT SECTOR

The career paths UIC SPH alumni choose to pursue are greatly varied, which is no surprise given the breadth of the public health profession. Over the years less of our graduates have entered the public sector, and the number entering healthcare, academia and the non-profit sector has increased. While the majority of UIC SPH alumni build careers in these areas, there are a significant number who advance the field of public health in the for-profit sector.

“Some people may have the perception that public health training only prepares somebody for a career in government, e.g., a public health agency, or maybe in the health care services sector,” says UIC SPH Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf. “However, public health training can be valuable for many different career paths, including in the for-profit sector, as exemplified by these four alumni.” Raising awareness among UIC SPH students and alumni of these other opportunities is important, as well as raising awareness in the for-profit sector of the value of public health expertise to their organizations.

Stuart Kersky (MHA ‘08), RPh

Stuart Kersky serves as the Managing Director at Pharmacy Healthcare Solutions where he works with hospitals, health systems and clinics to determine the feasibility, and ultimate development and implementation of, an ambulatory pharmacy. As a pharmacist with a degree in health administration, Kersky is well equipped to not only represent the financial, marketing and operational point of view, but is also able to assist his clients with providing improved

care to patients. The MHA degree has enabled him to gain a patient and population health perspective, which is invaluable in the for-profit sector.

“The Affordable Care Act will place greater emphasis on population health and this will bring public health professionals to the forefront of treatment since consumers will now have to choose which health plans to purchase,” says Kersky. “It should be dependent upon public health professionals to assist patients in making the correct choice, especially when it involves access to immunizations, health screenings and additional aspects of health care.”

Kersky, who is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and a member of the UIC SPH Alumni Board, encourages students and recent graduates who want to work in the for-profit sector to find an internship in order to obtain a “real world” view of how healthcare works. “I’d recommend working in the for-profit healthcare sector for two to three years prior to applying to graduate school. This will enable graduates to combine what was learned in school with what was learned on the job. This type of preparation is necessary for the next generation of public health professionals.”

Jason Clark (MPH/MBA ‘04)

As the Marketing & Product Development Manager for the Public Health & Forestry Business Units at Valent BioSciences Corporation, Jason Clark is passionate about the mission of his company: to develop and bring to market biorational solutions that protect public health, improve agricultural productivity, and keep our forests beautiful. Having both public health and business degrees has provided Clark with a unique perspective with regard to community and sustainability paradigms present in the for-profit sector. “I imagine that the percentage of MBAs with a background in public health is quite small,” reflects Clark. “Professionals with this unique combination of formal training are well positioned to create competitive advantage in the private sector around the concepts of community that pervade the public sector.”

Corporations like Valent BioSciences strive to build their marketing programs around knowledge that customers are not simply consumers but are complex, multi-dimensional human beings that are strongly inter-connected. As such, people gravitate toward companies and products that satisfy deeper, human needs for community, participation, creativity, and idealism.

Clark asserts that as global resources are becoming increasingly scarce, for-profit organizations need to shift from product-centric growth strategies to those that balance growth with the development of a healthy ecosystem (i.e. community engagement,



public service, reduction of carbon footprints, public/private partnerships, etc.). “I think public health professionals can play a vital role in helping to accomplish this shift,” Clark says. As the Treasurer of the UIC SPH alumni board, Clark is supporting his deep-seeded passion for education and giving back to his alma mater, which he says is “recognized as a hub for some of the best medical/public health programs in the nation.”

Jennifer Pierce, (PhD ‘10), MS

Dr. Jennifer Pierce is Managing Health Scientist and Director of the Chicago Office of Cardno Chemrisk, a scientific consulting firm that specializes in helping clients characterize the health and environmental risk associated with complex exposures involving chemicals, pharmaceuticals or radionuclides in a variety of media and environments. Pierce believes that public health professionals are responsible for evaluating the effects on health of a variety of factors, including personal behaviors/choices, genetics, and exposure to agents (chemical, physical, biological) in the occupational setting or due to the environment, in order to develop programs that protect or promote the health of the public. “As a consultant in the for-profit sector, much of my work involves assisting businesses and institutions in improving the safety of their products, services and operations.”

In 2010, Pierce and her colleagues performed an assessment to determine formaldehyde exposure associated with the use of commercially available hair straightening products. In 2012, they were subsequently awarded with the American Industrial Hygiene Association’s Indoor Environmental Quality “Best Paper Award.” This paper is still in the top 5 most read publications on the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene’s website.

“A career as a public health consultant typically involves fast-paced work and long hours. It is a career that is entirely based on merit, and through which there is an unlimited opportunity to learn and grow intellectually,” says Pierce. “Furthermore, with hard work and practice, this profession often becomes a hobby and a passion, which makes it extremely rewarding.”



Adedeji Adefuye, MD, (MPH ‘99), FRIPH, FRSPH

Dr. Adedeji Adefuye is the Medical Director of Pharmacovigilance and Drug Safety at AbbVie Inc., a new, independent biopharma-



ceutical company composed of Abbott’s former proprietary pharmaceutical business. “Many people do not understand what physicians and public health professionals do in the pharmaceutical industry,” begins Adefuye. “Pharmacovigilance (PV) is the science and activities relating to the detection, assessment, understanding and prevention of adverse effects or any other drug-

related problem associated with the use of medicinal products.” The aims of PV are to enhance patient care and patient safety, and to support public health programs by providing reliable, balanced information for the effective assessment of the risk-benefit profile of medicines.

Adefuye, who served as the Assistant Dean for the Urban Health Program (UHP) at UIC prior to joining the for-profit sector, has taken particular interest in health disparities. In addition to serving on the Community Advisory Council of UHP, he is the Co-Principal Investigator of a \$1.4 million grant to evaluate a condom education/promotion program for African American males on the Southside of Chicago.

Having a public health degree in addition to his medical degree has allowed Adefuye to “see health through a completely different lens. Health is not just viewed in terms of individual patient outcomes but health of communities. Most of my physician colleagues without public health degrees, and the competencies it provides, rely on librarians to conduct literature searches for them and epidemiologists and statisticians to help with data mining and interpretation, I don’t.” For this very reason, Adefuye encourages his fellow public health professionals to continue to educate non-public health colleagues about the field and its importance in the overall health and economy of the nation. “We need to advocate for more resources for preventive health and behavior modification programs, as well as participate in the development of policies and strategies for the implementation of programs that target the communities and populations with the greatest burden of disease.”

Do you work in the corporate world as a public health professional? We want to hear from you! Tell us about your work at TelISPH@uic.edu.

Making a Difference in the Health of Populations Around the World

England

Alyson Lofthouse, Interim Associate Director of UIC SPH’s global health program, received a scholarship from the Rotary Foundation to pursue studies overseas during the spring term. Alyson spent five months at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in Liverpool, England, where she studied Humanitarian Health Programme Management. The scholarship she was awarded seeks to promote international understanding by sending ambassadors of goodwill. While abroad, scholars give presentations about their work and their country of origin to Rotary Clubs and other organizations throughout the host country.



Alyson Lofthouse with Andrew Kellaway, President of Rotary Club of Liverpool

Ukraine

MPH candidate in Community Health Sciences, **Tamara Kozyckyj**, spent 8 weeks in Ukraine assisting UIC SPH Dean Brandt-Rauf and faculty in establishing the Global Environmental and Occupational Health Research Hub (see text box at right). This collaboration joins Ukrainian and Eastern European institutions to pursue research around the theme “Energy Security and Health Protection.” Her role consisted of presenting best practices for international research consortia as well as conducting a retrospective statistical analysis on domestic heat energy use and birth outcomes in Ukraine.

UIC GEOHub Team Visits Ukraine

IN MAY 2013, TEAMS OF RESEARCHERS FROM THE UNIVERSITY of Illinois at Chicago and Ukraine met in Kyiv to collaborate on plans to establish a Global Occupational and Environmental Health (GEOHealth) Hub. This effort, funded by a planning grant awarded to UIC SPH and research institutes of the Ukrainian Academy of Medical Sciences by the Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health, paved the way to create a research hub within Eastern Europe.

The UIC team was led by Professor Dan Hryhorczuk, Principal Investigator of the project, and included Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf, Professors Linda Forst and Lorraine Conroy, Research Associate Professor Irina Dardynskaia, and Tamara Kozyckyj from SPH and Marcia Edison, program evaluator, from the College of Medicine. Ukrainian participants included representatives from the Institute for Occupational Health, the Marzeyev Institute for Hygiene and Medical Ecology, and the Institute for Pediatrics, Obstetrics, and Gynecology.



UIC GEOHub team in Kyiv, Ukraine.

“The countries of Eastern Europe face significant environmental health problems partially as a legacy of rapid industrialization during the Soviet period,” says Brandt-Rauf. “As the Chernobyl disaster unfortunately exemplifies, a major portion of these environmental health problems derive from energy security issues. Although particularly acute for Eastern Europe, these energy security and environmental health issues have relevance not only for Eastern Europe but also for the US and the rest of the world. Given SPH’s considerable strength in EOHS and its long history of collaboration in Eastern Europe, this GEOHub is a natural and necessary extension of our past work to address pressing contemporary global challenges.”

During the two-day meeting, stakeholders from the various project partners discussed their ongoing research initiatives, needs in the regions, and plans for future collaborations. The theme “Eastern European Consortium for Energy Security and Health Protection” was proposed as the focus for the GEOHealth Hub and will include institutes from Ukraine, Belarus, Poland, and Serbia.

Dominican Republic

Zachary Pope, an MPH candidate in Epidemiology, spent his summer in the Dominican Republic where he researched HIV and sexual health in the urban province of La Romana.



Jasmine James

Cameroon

Jasmine James, an MPH candidate in Community Health Sciences, traveled to the capital of Cameroon to participate in a national public health project that aims to reduce maternal and newborn mortality.

Colombia

Nicole Hovey, an MPH candidate in Epidemiology, spent her summer researching dengue disease and the use of insecticide-treated materials in Colombia.



Alex Ewing

China

Alex Ewing, an MPH candidate in Epidemiology, conducted an internship at the George Institute for Global Health in Beijing, China. Here he participated in a large scale, public health intervention project that seeks to utilize the village doctor system in rural China to screen people for cardiovascular disease risk, educate them on prevention, and manage their care.



A FIRST HAND ACCOUNT OF DISASTER AND MENTAL HEALTH

M. Sophia Newman, MPH '11

Workers emerged from the ruin slowly, one by one, for days. Some stood with their hands on their heads, blinking like lizards in the sudden sunshine. Some lay flat on stretchers, too injured to move. Some gasped in confusion, stabbed the air with empty hands, and emitted futile shrieks, as though waking from a bad dream.

It was a nightmare, although nobody can awaken from it. On April 24, 2013, Rana Plaza, a nine-story factory building in Savar, Bangladesh, collapsed with over 3,500 workers inside. 1,116 died in the wreckage. 2,438 others were pulled from the pancaked concrete structure, some after enduring improvised amputations by rescuers using machetes. Those who remain alive are traumatized by the disaster, as are their families and the rescuers. The trauma is intensified by fury: many believe that this was not an accident, but violence set in motion by factory owners' unwillingness to comply with the most basic safety standards.

April 24 was, in the strangest way, not a bad time to be a Fulbright Fellow in Bangladesh. When I applied for the Fulbright, I could not have predicted the largest industrial disaster in history. I certainly would never have wished for it. But Rana Plaza was a watershed event – and in the days after the atrocity, it became clear that a small part of the change that follows will be my public health work.

I had come to Bangladesh to research mental health. Mental illness makes up 14% of the overall global disease burden, and depression is predicted to be the leading cause of morbidity worldwide in the next decade. But in many countries there are stark shortages of mental health services. Bangladesh, for instance, has just 123 psychiatrists to serve the 26 million Bangladeshis with a diagnosable mental illness. In May 2013, the World Health Organization released a plan calling for scaling up most mental health systems, an effort that begins with the acknowledgement of the dire lack of services.



Sophia Newman, MPH '11, presents her research at the 2013 South and Central Asia Fulbright conference in Kochi, Kerala, India, February 2013. Photo credit: Sabrina Khan

The situation clearly demands the attention of public health professionals. But mental health is typically described only peripherally in public health degree programs.

I received a Fulbright to study mental health. While the grant is prestigious, its biggest advantage is the opportunity to explore any topic that can fit into a research project nine months in length. Grantees can explore subjects that do not fit within any of the major degree concentrations that schools of public health typically offer. The list includes climate change, public health pharmacy, conflict resolution, human rights, mental health, and many more.

“...in many countries there are stark shortages of mental health services”

Applying for the Fulbright

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Government and has provided more than 318,000 participants—chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential — with the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns. For more information, please see <http://iie.org/en/Fulbright>.

Left: A survivor of the Rana Plaza factory collapse gazes into the camera. Like many others, she has suffered from trauma after the disaster. Photo credit: Ayon Rehal

On the day Rana Plaza collapsed, I was three months into my research. I had completed a literature review of all mental health research from Bangladesh and was coordinating an intensive course on mental health systems development at my affiliate university, BRAC University James P. Grant School of Public Health. But I was finding mental health heavily stigmatized in Bangladesh. Although perpetually welcoming, many Bangladeshis seemed to regard my work with a mix of cynicism and xenophobia. A few even seemed to perceive some sort of ad hominem attack on their country.

After April 24, though, the stark, infuriatingly severe atrocity in Savar made mental health a topic of public discussion. Now, trauma made sense to everyone. It was an opening – tiny, tragic, conflicted – but sufficient, perhaps, for my work to flourish.

I would eventually help two psychiatrists, Nasima Selim and Harry Minas, lead the intensive course for thirty participants. The course resulted in the founding of a new organization, the National Mental Health Network, which aims to scale up access to services by connecting the few mental health organizations in Bangladesh. The network will also act to unify Bangladesh with burgeoning efforts to advance global mental health.

My latest project involves developing educational programming on mental health in disaster, answering the question of how to help people who endure trauma as severe as the Savar atrocity. The course will be the first on the topic in any public health school in Bangladesh. ■



Roses commemorate lost loved ones at the former site of Rana Plaza. The factory in Savar, Bangladesh, collapsed on April 24, killing and injuring several thousand workers. Photo credit: Ayon Rehal

Division of Health Policy and Administration

DR. ELIZABETH CALHOUN, PROFESSOR and Senior Research Scientist of Health Policy and Administration, is an experienced health services researcher with expertise in health disparities and a long history of working in Chicago communities. Implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) demands highly trained healthcare professionals, and UIC SPH faculty have the knowledge necessary to train many of them. Early this year, Dr. Calhoun was awarded a grant by Illinois Department of Insurance to develop curricula and facilitate training for the Illinois Assisters Program. Under this program, the Navigators, In Person Counselors, and Certified Application Counselors will engage and educate people in their community and enroll them for coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace.

The Illinois Assister Program training is a two-day in-person training, held around the state, with an additional day of training completed on-line prior to attending the face to face training. All Illinois Assister Program entities are required to take the training, which ends

in certification from UIC and the Illinois Department of Insurance. A pre-test is taken prior to any educational sessions and following training, a post-test will determine if the trainees have passed the educational sessions to be eligible to receive certification. Trainees will be required to complete Continuing Education in order to receive certification on a yearly basis for the length of the training project.



Continuing education webinars will also be available online starting Fall of 2013. A web-based resource repository was developed and will be available to Assisters during and after the training to support individuals, families and small businesses across Illinois reduce barriers to enrollment in the benefits of the ACA. The training includes areas such as health insurance 101, overview of the ACA, Illinois-specific Medicaid and public benefit program information, information on Illinois Health Insurance Marketplace, communication skills and community engagement. The training is sensitive to the varied healthcare experience among organizations as well as varied experience in engaging hard to reach communities. As of August 30, 2013, three hundred twenty assisters have been trained and more sessions are scheduled to train a minimum of 600 more.

Key partners for this grant include Health & Disability Advocates, MidAmerica Center for Public Health Practice, and DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform. Co-investigators include Dr. Anthony LoSasso, Dr. Jonathan Dopkeen, Dr. Lindsey Leininger, Dr. Sage Kim and Dr. Michael Fagan.

Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

IN JULY 2013, DR. SUPRIYA MEHTA, Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, received notice of award for a 5-year, NIH-funded grant to study genital bacteria in a cohort of 200 heterosexual

couples in Kisumu, Kenya. The study, "Afyia Jozi, Afya Jamii" (Healthy pair, Healthy community) will examine bacterial community composition in pairs of men and women. Dr. Mehta's study will examine how the penile microbiome may increase the risk of reproductive tract infections, especially bacterial vaginosis (BV), genital ulcer disease (GUD), and genital epithelial disruption. The study will also evaluate behavioral factors leading to differences in genital microbiomes of individuals and within couples.

The aims of this study have significant public health importance. BV affects 20-50% of general population women in sub-Saharan Africa and is an important target for reducing population level HIV risk. In pregnancy, BV increases risk of miscarriage, premature rupture of membranes, preterm birth, chorioamnionitis, and post-abort sepsis. GUD and genital epithelial disruption are also common and strong risks for HIV acquisition and

transmission. Understanding how the penile microbiome increases risk of BV, GUD, and genital epithelial disruption has major implications for preventing these conditions. Knowing which specific bacteria lead to these conditions is necessary for determining the appropriate classes of antimicrobials to disrupt acquisition and transmission. In addition to systemic or topical antimicrobials and microbicides, interventions could promote behavioral or hygiene practices that reduce bacteria associated with these outcomes. There is ongoing need to prevent BV, GUD, and genital epithelial disruption to reduce HIV risk and improve pregnancy and reproductive health outcomes. Dr. Mehta believes we may achieve this through improved health of the penile microbiome.

Dr. Mehta's co-investigators include Dr. Robert Bailey and Dr. Stefan Gree from UIC; Dr. Elijah Odoyo-June from Nyanza Reproductive Health Society; Dr. Walter Jaoko from University of Nairobi; and Dr. Greg Spear from Rush University.



Division of Community Health Sciences

DR. JENNIFER HEBERT-BEIRNE, ASSISTANT Professor of Community Health Sciences, is a Community-based Participatory Researcher (CBPR) working in partnership with UIC SPH students, Chicago community-based organizations, and public health practice organizations to understand and create awareness of neighborhood-level health equity. Her focus is on the role social determinants of health and the conditions in which people live play on residents' opportunities to be healthy. Through CBPR efforts that include student-community engaged learning, Dr. Hebert-Beirne is active in collaborative multidisciplinary mixed method Community Health Assessment to better understand health issues across the city's diverse communities and produce knowledge and awareness of the social conditions in which people live to make social change toward improving population health.

With a particular interest in immigration and community health, Dr. Hebert-Beirne is currently collaborating with a multidisciplinary group of UIC faculty and community-based organization partners in the neighborhood of Little Village on Chicago's near southwest side.

Dr. Hebert-Beirne's students play a significant role in her ongoing participatory research on community health equity. Students in the Spring 2013 semester analyzed existing public health and social data, deployed a community health survey, and conducted interviews and focus groups with community residents around the *Healthy Chicago* Priority Areas as defined by the Chicago Department of Public Health. In the Fall 2013 semester, students are building on previous semesters' accomplishments organizing their research and practice around topics identified as most salient health areas in the mixed methods Little Village data analysis to date: mental health, occupation and health, immigration and community assets.

With support from UIC's Institute on Policy and Civic Engagement, students are engaged in a whole new level of meaningful service learning as they share emerging community health assessment data with the diverse group of community-based partners at Community Health Pláticas and maximized the community's



knowledge and expertise on their own community health priorities. She feels immense pride in being awarded these funds and others like them since it demonstrates progress in recognizing the importance and potential of student engaged learning and facilitating community-level interpretation of neighborhood data.

Key partners for this project were Dr. Dina Birman, Dr. Victoria Persky, Dr. Noel Chavez, Dr. Joan Kennelly, Dr. Kamal Eldeirawi, and Dr. Linda Forst. Community Partners included Taller de Jose, Esperanza Health Center, Hope Response Coalition, Enlace Chicago, Erie Neighborhood House, Telpochcalli Community Education Project, Latino Progresando, and Roots of Wellness.

Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences



THE PROCESSES BY WHICH INFECTIOUS diseases are transmitted between people are complex. In the healthcare setting, however, understanding of these processes

allows infection control interventions to be targeted and evaluated. Infection control interventions prevent the transmission of diseases between patients, from workers to patients and from patients to workers.

For several years, Dr. Rachael Jones, Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, has worked with Drs. Mark Nicas (University of California, Berkeley) and Elodie Adida-Goodman (University of California, Riverside) to explicate the transmission of influenza and evaluate intervention effectiveness using mathematical models. Recently, Dr. Jones received funding from Eastern Research Group, Inc. on behalf of the U.S. Department of Labor to characterize the burden of occupationally-acquired infections in the healthcare sector for selected infectious agents.

While outbreaks have shown that both workers and patients are at risk of infection in the healthcare sector, the cumulative risk posed to workers by occupational exposures to non-bloodborne infectious agents is poorly understood. This study will extend the mathematical modeling methods developed in the context of influenza to dermal, gastrointestinal, and other respiratory infections to determine the burden of occupationally-acquired infections; and the resulting models will allow Dr. Jones to explore the mechanisms of disease transmission and intervention among a diverse group of infectious agents. Dr. Jones is pleased to have several current UIC SPH students and recent graduates participating in this research: Quincy Coleman, Prabha Ranasinghe, Yu-min (Charlie) Su, and Yulin Xia.

Alumna Makes Plans to Support Future Industrial Hygienists

“WHEN I ENTERED THE MPH PROGRAM AT the University of Illinois at Chicago, I originally thought I would focus on community health or health planning,” recalls Barb Epstien (MPH ‘78), CIH. “But, after taking Bill Hallenbeck’s course in environmental health, I realized that I had always had an interest in the environmental

“It’s important to both my husband and me to support institutions that we care about and that have had an impact on us.”

impact on human health.” Epstien, who earned her undergraduate degree in sociology and anthropology, first learned about the field of public health from her academic advisor. An interest in health care systems and medical sociology led her to pursue an advanced degree that she would one day credit to opening many doors in public health, and particularly in occupational health. Today, she and her husband,

Julian Gray, have plans to make a gift from their estate that will fund programs in the UIC SPH division of environmental and occupational health sciences because she “wants to help grow and sustain the industrial hygiene profession.”

It only took that one course in environmental health to change Epstien’s career path. She warmly recalls another course she took with Rick Wadden, which helped solidify her interest in this area of public health. As a student in the late-1970s, Epstien also worked for another faculty member, Janet Holden, on a grant to study the air quality at a sewage treatment facility. “I conducted outdoor air sampling to help characterize sludge aerosols at and around the facility, providing data that folks in the epidemiology department then used to help evaluate health effects in the surrounding community. This experience was a great blend of community health and environmental health.”

Epstien did her practicum with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and it turned into a job where she worked for eight years. Her supervisor valued the combination of her liberal arts undergraduate degree and her MPH. Reflecting further, she explains, “I liked UIC’s multi-disciplinary approach to public health. It was consistent with my approach to education in general and it allowed me to learn a little bit about the different areas in which public health professionals work.” She believes that a great public health program is one where many aspects of the field are taught so that students gain a broad understanding of the field. “In my work, I notice that some of my colleagues who were trained in the hard sciences like biology or chemistry do not always have the same approach to occupational health as I do. I’ve had clients tell me that I am able to effectively understand and communicate the broader aspects of the situation beyond just the technical facts.” She says that she has been able to evolve in her public health career and her “degree was a catalyst for my current role as an independent industrial hygiene consultant.”

As the managing principal of her own industrial hygiene consulting firm, Epstien is constantly on the move. The breadth of industrial hygienists’ work is extremely wide, as she experienced at a recent project measuring sound levels on a construction site. “Our role here was to monitor worker noise exposure as part of a hearing conservation program, the ultimate goal of which is to help reduce the risk of noise-induced hearing loss,” she explains, though the impact of her work sometimes extends beyond the workers on the job site. “In the bigger picture this effort could also extend into the community, if, for example, the construction noise were to affect a neighboring residential area. So industrial hygiene or occupational health doesn’t stop at the boundaries of a jobsite; its essence is public health.” She continues,



Barb Epstien and her husband, Julian Gray (right), join Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf.

“It also works the other way; for example, relatively few disciplines talk about worker health and safety on ‘green’ construction projects, where the focus is usually on environmental benefits and not on the workers who build those ‘green’ buildings. As an industrial hygienist I don’t want to see that piece fall through the cracks.”

When making a very personal choice to financially support UIC SPH, Epstien says that she at first didn’t realize that UIC needed her support. “I have always supported my undergraduate college because it is a small, private institution. I must admit I didn’t realize that state universities also need support from their alumni.” With, on average, only 20% of the school’s operating budget coming from the State of Illinois, UIC SPH is relying more and more on the generosity of its alumni and friends to ensure students receive a high quality education. Epstien felt it was important to give back to UIC because her MPH degree gave her the jump start to grow her

professional career. “I had recently started my own consulting business and didn’t feel I was in a position to make a major gift at this time. After learning about deferred gifts, my husband and I decided to leave part of our estate to the UIC School of Public Health to support the EOHS division. It’s important to both my husband and me to support institutions that we care about and that have had an impact on us.” ■

Leaving a Legacy for UIC SPH

Create a better tomorrow for public health students, educators and the communities they serve by including UIC School of Public Health in your will and estate plans today. Many members of the UIC SPH community want to make a difference by supporting the school. Even if you don’t have the means to do so right now, you can have a meaningful impact by including UIC SPH in your estate plans.

An estate gift is easy to set up. You simply ask your attorney to change your will or revocable trust, or sign a new beneficiary designation for your retirement plan or IRA.

You can choose the kind of estate gift that makes sense for you. Your gift can be a stated sum of cash or you can express your gift as a percentage of your estate, trust, retirement plan or IRA. It can be personal property or it can be real estate. You can even set up a charitable gift annuity for a parent or a sibling whom you are supporting now or whose future financial security you worry about.

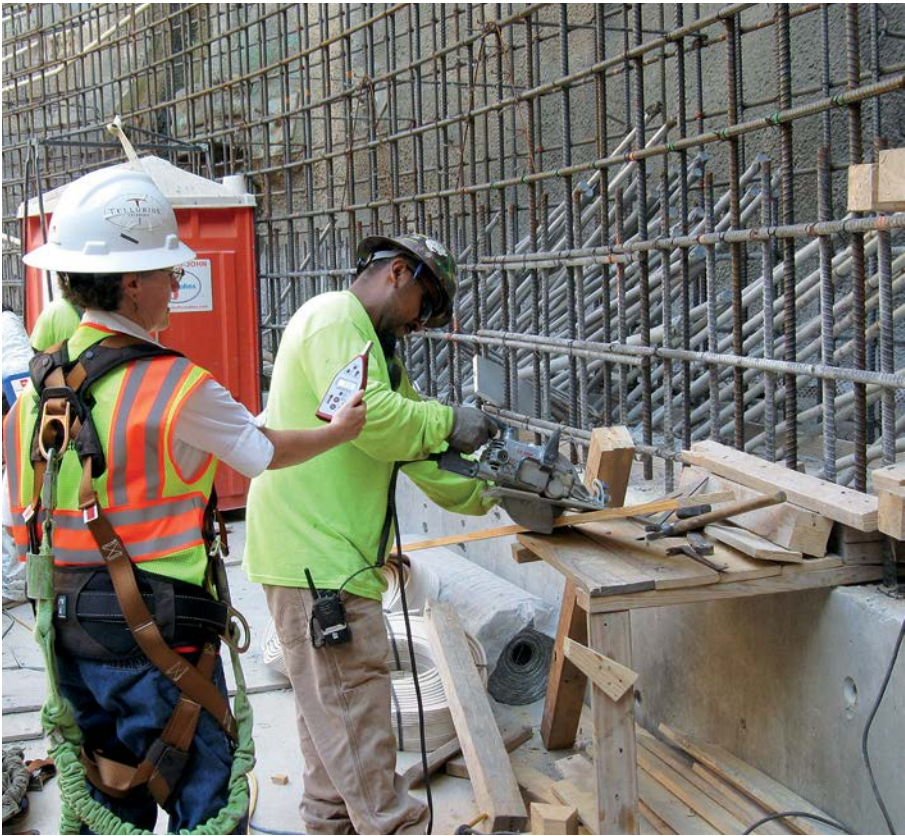
You can choose the time that makes sense for you. If you’re married and you include your gift in your will or revocable trust, your attorney can make sure that your gift occurs after your spouse’s death.

An estate gift is revocable. If your circumstances change and you no longer feel that you can include a gift to the school in your estate plan, you simply ask your attorney to change your will or revocable trust, or you sign a new beneficiary designation for your retirement plan or IRA.

You can direct your gift to any fund or program at the school, making college more affordable for students in need or supporting research that improves people’s health and changes lives. Your gift will help prepare our next generation of leaders, thinkers and doers and inspire answers to tomorrow’s biggest challenges.

For more information on including the UIC School of Public Health in your estate plans, please contact:

Craig Hyland, MSW
Assistant Dean for Advancement
Phone: (312) 355-4501
E-Mail: craigh@uic.edu

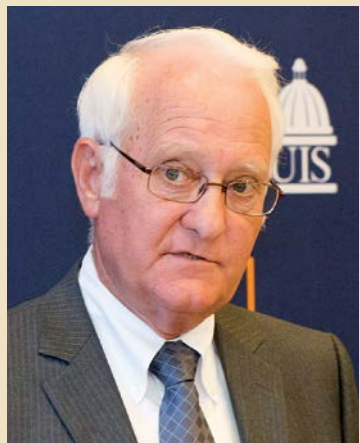


Epstien monitoring worker noise exposure.



UI PRESIDENT: PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION AT CROSSROADS

Why do universities exist? In a talk that became personal at one point, University of Illinois President Bob Easter addressed an audience of Chicago civic, business and government leaders last summer. “I believe the answer begins with a couple of characteristics that define us as human beings — an insatiable curiosity and a unique ability to transmit knowledge from one generation to the next.”



University of Illinois President Bob Easter

The modern western university, a product of the Middle Ages, spawned a curriculum that focused on classical literature for the sons of the ruling elite, Easter said. But “pragmatists began to question the value of a classical education in a world where practical knowledge was critical to the solution of everyday problems,” he said.

So when, during the Civil War, Congress passed the Morrill Act, granting public lands to sell for establishment of universities, it gave this reason:

“... to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts ... in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life.”

Easter noted that the U of I is one of the world’s premier public research universities. “We are a \$5 billion operation,” he said.

He offered three more facts:

- for each of the last two years, the three campuses have awarded a record-high 20,000-plus degrees
- enrollment is up 15 percent from a decade ago, and graduates are up 30 percent
- for the semester beginning this fall, the three campuses received nearly five times more applications than available seats in freshman classes.

“Those are some important statistics,” Easter said. “But the question remains: why do we do the work that we do?” Before



said. Afterwards, “young people, such as myself, were able to escape from limited circumstances and enjoy an incredible life,” he said.

“The trajectory of my life changed because of access to a very affordable, publicly funded community college — \$47 a semester. And a very affordable baccalaureate and master’s education at Texas A&M — \$500 a semester. And a top-flight doctoral program at the University of Illinois.”

Easter said he believes public higher education is at a crossroads.

In 1973, the year he arrived on the Urbana campus, median household income in Illinois was about \$10,500 and in-state

“The trajectory of my life changed because of access to a very affordable... baccalaureate and master’s education.”

tuition and fees at Urbana were \$686 a year. A family could send its child to the university for about 6.5 percent of family income, he said.

Today, 40 years later, median household income is about \$50,600, and in-state tuition and fees for a freshman this fall will be nearly \$15,200 per year. That’s 30 percent of the median family income. “We cannot afford to ignore the need

the Land-Grant Act, there was no concept of education as something that benefited society as a whole, he

for public investment in higher education — and the K-12 education that precedes it,” Easter said.

In the early ‘50s, federal and state governments began to invest heavily in support of research in university laboratories, he noted. “Direct state funding that once covered nearly half of the U of I’s day-to-day costs now accounts for less than 15 percent. Tuition has increased sharply to plug the gap, and that is not sustainable.”

In 2012, the university Board of Trustees established a policy that holds tuition increases to the rate of inflation. “As a result,” Easter said, “tuition increased only 1.7 percent for incoming freshmen this fall — the smallest increase in nearly two decades.” However, that will “inevitably” cut dollars to support the university and its academic and research programs, he said.

The U of I’s federal funding is sixth-highest in the nation, and the university is first in support from the National Science Foundation and among leading institutions in the amount of funding from the National Institutes of Health. “And our research discovery doesn’t just sit dormant in some journal,” he said. “We put it to work to serve society and drive economic growth for our state and nation.”

Urbana’s research park has incubated 145 start-up companies and a similar small-business incubator is growing in Chicago, “already working with more than 30 companies to spin out high-tech start-ups from our UIC campus,” he said.

What will the public university of the future look like? Easter listed these “essential components:”

- reliance on technology “in a way we cannot imagine today”
- emphasis on philanthropy for costs formerly covered by federal and state governments
- partnership between public entities, institutions of higher education and industry to spur innovation and foster research.
- enhancing the student experience, both in and outside the classroom, with internships, study abroad, service learning and on-campus residential experience “to develop the cultural competencies increasingly needed in our global society.” ■



New undergraduate students in the public health program attended orientation in August 2013.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN THE

Founders Circle

UIC SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The UIC School of Public Health has been sustained through the years by the generous gifts of many faithful friends. We are proud to honor the distinguished group of leadership donors who, year after year, help the University to prepare our students for success. Membership in the Founders Circle recognizes donors who make annual gifts of \$500 or more to ensure we reach our goal of providing excellence in public health education and research, while serving local, national and international communities in need.

THE IMPACT OF FOUNDERS CIRCLE

Founders Circle members invest in the future. Your support helps transform student ambition into action, ensuring that the UIC School of Public Health continues to maintain the highest level of distinction envisioned by its founders. Our members' generosity creates opportunities for our students, faculty, and staff in many ways:

- Need and merit based tuition scholarships
- Merit based awards
- Research grants
- Student travel stipends
- Building updates and renovations
- Technology upgrades

BENEFITS OF FOUNDERS CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP

Founders Circle members enjoy many advantages, and are privy to a number of special invitations and engagement opportunities.

- Invitation to the **ANNUAL FOUNDERS CIRCLE RECEPTION**, including a "State of the School" presentation by Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf and featuring UIC SPH senior faculty and administrators.
- Invitation to **ANNUAL UIF AT UIC DINNER**, which celebrates the impact of UIC's most generous donors, alumni, and friends.
- Exclusive invitations to **PRIVATE RECEPTIONS** at UIC SPH hosted lectures.
- **SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS** from Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf with up-to-date information on programs, priorities, issues, and events on campus and regionally.
- **SPECIALIZED NAME TAGS** provided at UIC SPH events.

WAYS TO JOIN THE FOUNDERS CIRCLE

Membership in the Founders Circle recognizes donors who make annual gifts of \$500 or more. Joining is easy:

- Gifts to all UIC School of Public Health funds qualify for membership.
- Employer matching gifts count toward annual membership.
- Gifts can be made over multiple months via automatic credit/debit card payments.
- University of Illinois faculty and staff gifts may be made over multiple months via automatic payroll deduction.
- Membership in the Founders Circle must be renewed each year.

For more information about the Founders Circle, contact the Office of Advancement at SPHAdvancement@uic.edu or 312-355-4501.

BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION

DEVELOPING LEADERS AND POLICIES



CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

In the Fall of 2012, Paul Brandt-Rauf visited the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) where he met with Commissioner Bechara Chocair, MD and more than twenty alumni to learn about how UIC SPH could strengthen its partnership with CDHP. This original meeting resulted in key staff at CDPH visiting UIC to meet with division directors and other school leadership at UIC SPH in September 2013.

After presentations on the state of the school and CDPH initiatives given by Brandt-Rauf and Chocair, a discussion ensued

"Working together and with other interested stakeholders, CDPH and UIC SPH can make Chicago the healthiest city in the nation."

about the ways these two organizations could support one another to address public health issues in Chicago. UIC SPH faculty discussed practicum placements for their students, while CDPH inquired about opportunities to approach funders around research that addresses the twelve "Healthy Chicago" priority areas, such as violence prevention, adolescent health, and access to care.



CDPH and SPH are natural partners because both want to improve the health of the public in Chicago. As an academic institution with the desire to turn its knowledge into action and its compassion into results, Brandt-Rauf believes it is mandatory that UIC SPH have strong partnerships with CDPH as well as other public agencies. "We believe in and fully support CDPH's Healthy Chicago initiative, and we have much to contribute to it," explains Brandt-Rauf. "Healthy Chicago focuses on 12 key priority areas, and SPH has great strength and depth in all 12 of these areas. Working together and with other interested stakeholders, CDPH and SPH can make Chicago the healthiest city in the nation."



Healthy Chicago Priorities



Tobacco Use



Obesity Prevention



HIV Prevention



Adolescent Health



Cancer Disparities



Heart Disease & Stroke



Access to Care



Healthy Mothers & Babies



Communicable Disease Control & Prevention



Healthy Homes



Violence Prevention



Public Health Infrastructure

Above: Dean Brandt-Rauf and Commissioner Chocair bring their staffs together to discuss ways of making Chicago healthier for its residents.

Below: Paul Brandt-Rauf and Bechara Chocair



Left: UIC SPH and CDPH staff at their meeting at UIC on September 3, 2013.

Celebrating the Achievements of Students, Alumni, Faculty and Staff

■ **Maheen Ahmed**, a junior in the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health Program, was selected for the Urban Public Policy Fellowship Program coordinated through the UIC Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement.

■ PhD candidate in the Community Health Sciences division, **Yuka Asada**, presented at the University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System's Mini Rounds on June 25, 2013. The theme was "Summer Ready, Some Are Not," and Yuka presented on the study that she and Jamie Chriqui, PhD, Senior Research Scientist, completed on school nutrition policies.

■ **Jay Bhatt**, DO, (MPH '08), MPA, FACP, has been named a 2013 White House Fellows Program National Finalist. In October 2013, he will begin serving as the Managing Deputy Commissioner, Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer at the Chicago Department of Public Health.



Jay Bhatt

■ Former Illinois Gaming Board legal counsel, **William Bogot** (MPH '06), has joined the firm of Ungaretti & Harris LLP as partner in its Gaming and Government Affairs Practice.

■ **David G. Duvall** (MPH '94) was named senior vice president of marketing, communications and business development for Novant Health Inc. He will be responsible for continuing Novant's strategic branding initiative, including aligning the health-care system's marketing, public relations and digital functions.



Faith Fletcher

■ **Kamal Eldeirawi**, (PhD '06), RN, is one of just 12 nursing educators from across the United States to win a highly competitive grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholars program.

■ **Wesley Epplin** (MPH '11) joined Health & Medicine Policy Research Group as Policy Analyst in July 2013. His work will focus on the healthcare and social safety net, public health and healthcare workforce, and healthcare reform.

■ **Faith Fletcher**, assistant professor in the division of Community Health Sciences, was selected as a recipient of the Kaiser Permanente Burch Minority Leadership Awards Program. The program aims to enhance the voices and leadership development of minority researchers committed to improving service to the underserved and reducing health inequalities.

■ **Andrew A. Gonzalez**, MD, JD (MPH '10) presented findings at the 2013 Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons of a study he co-authored that found same-hospital readmission rates are an unreliable surrogate for predicting all-hospital readmissions rates.

■ **Memoona Hasnain**, MD, MHPE, (PhD '01) has been named a Macy Faculty Scholar by The Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation.

■ **Craig Hyland**, MSW, became UIC SPH's new Assistant Dean for Advancement in June 2013. Prior to this, he served as the school's Associate Director of Development for more than 5 years.

■ **Gabriela Illa**, a senior in the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health Program, was selected for a competitive internship with the Chicago Federal Executive Board and Government College Relations Council for the 2013-2014 academic year. She was also awarded the UIC Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship based upon her high academic achievement and commitment to community and campus service.



Gabriela Illa

■ **Claude-Alix Jacob** (MPH '98) is the Chief Public Health Officer for the City of Cambridge. Under his leadership, the city of Cambridge won an inaugural Roadmaps to Health prize from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which honors outstanding community health partnerships. He was recently added to the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Board of Directors.

■ The American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) selected **Lewis N. Lampiris**, DDS, (MPH '97), to receive its highest and most prestigious honor, the Distinguished Service Award.

■ **Frank Licari**, DDS, (MPH '94), MBA, has been appointed as Roseman University's new dean of the College of Dental Medicine – South Jordan.

■ **Erica Martinez**, (MPH '13), MBA, recently accepted a Policy Analyst position with the Health and Medicine Policy Research Group.



Craig Hyland

■ **Jamesetta Mator**, a senior in the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health Program, presented her research project "A Systematic Review of Communication Methods for Cervical Cancer in Low- and Middle-income Countries" as part of the UIC Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) Annual Research Symposium on August 1, 2013. As part of the program, Jamesetta was mentored by Dr. Karen Peters, Clinical Assistant Professor of Community Health Sciences.

■ **Linda Rae Murray**, MD, (MPH '80), will receive the University of Illinois Distinguished Service Award in October 2013. This award is presented to UIC alumni for the extraordinary commitment, dedication and service to the advancement of the University of Illinois. Dr. Murray serves at the Chief Medical Officer for the Cook County Department of Public Health.

■ Professor of epidemiology, **Jay Olshansky**, received the 2013 Kathy N. Johnson Achievement Award at the annual meeting of Home Care Assistance.

■ As a Presidential Management Fellow, **Yasin S. Patel** (MPH '13) is working at the National Institutes of Health in a position with the Office of the Director at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI).

■ Governor Pat Quinn has appointed **Victoria Persky**, professor epidemiology, to the State Board of Health.

■ **Jamila R. Rashid** (MPH '90) has been named the new Executive Director of UIC's Urban Health Program (UHP).

■ **Reginald Riggins** (MPH '09) has been awarded a Minority Fellowship from the American Psychological Association.

■ **Isabel Ruvalcaba**, a senior in the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health Program, was awarded the UIC Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship for the 2013-2014 academic year based upon her high academic achievement and commitment to community and campus service.

■ CommunityHealth, Illinois' largest free clinic, recently added **Richard Sewell**, Associate Dean, Community and Public Health Practice, to its board of directors.



Jay Olshansky

■ **Gary Slutkin**, MD, founder of Cure Violence and research professor of epidemiology, received the 2013 In Harmony with Hope® Award from Elfenworks, an organization that fosters creative and technology solutions that advance change.



Jamila R. Rashid



Leslie Stayner

■ **Leslie Stayner**, professor of epidemiology, has been chosen to receive the 2012 H.A. Tyroler Distinguished Alumni Award sponsored by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Epidemiology Chapter of the Gillings School of Global Public Health Alumni Association.

■ MHA adjunct faculty member, **Airica Steed**, is recognized in this year's Modern Healthcare Magazine's 27th annual "Up & Comers" list. Dr. Steed, who also serves as the Chief Experience Officer at the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System, made the list as a prominent healthcare leader under 40 making a difference in the industry.

■ DrPH candidate, **Vamsi Vasireddy**, is principal Investigator at Population Services International (PSI) on a project called ACTwatch. He will be working in 10 countries to improve access to anti malarial medicines.

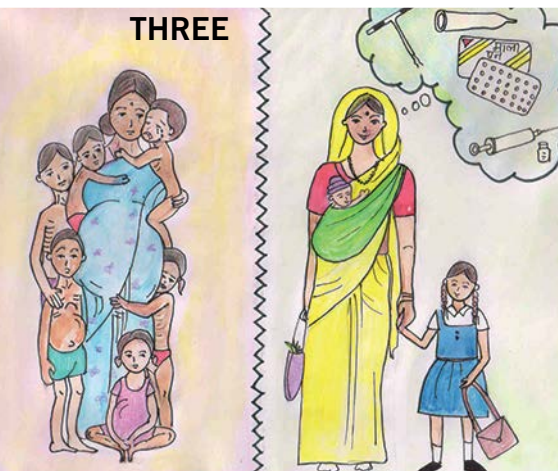
■ DrPH student, **Kuliva Wilburn** (MPH '08), was selected as one of the members of The Chicago Council on Global Affairs 2015 Class of Emerging Leaders.

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

Alumna Pilots Family Planning Program in India

SARAH COLE KAMMERER (MPH '12) recently returned from a Fulbright in India where she piloted a family planning program using participatory learning and action methods. These methods employ strategies of participation, mobilization and empowerment – separate but closely related concepts that build on one another. Guided by local facilitators nominated by the community, individuals come together to actively engage in decisions that affect both their own health and the health of their communities. Consequently, individuals and communities gain control over their own health decisions, while enhancing self-confidence and leadership skills.

Her pilot, implemented in conjunction with a local NGO called Ekjut (www.ekjutindia.org), took place in three tribal villages over 9 months in the state of Jharkhand, one of the poorest states in India. Her photos give a glimpse into the pilot, where stories, role play and other participatory methods were used to discuss family planning.



Photos 1 and 2 show the introduction and prioritization meeting, where the women decide which issues they want to discuss. Photo 3 is one of the picture cards used during the meetings. Photo 4 is the story-telling meeting, photo 5 is the role play meeting and photo 6 portrays the 'chain game', a cause and effect exercise used during meeting 4. Finally, photo 7 is a photo of one of the women's groups.



Bringing UIC SPH to its Alumni

SINCE BECOMING DEAN OF UIC SPH IN 2008, Paul Brandt-Rauf has always looked for ways to meet alumni at their places of employment in order to see public health in action. Over the past five years, he has

visited numerous organizations where UIC SPH alumni work and hold positions of leadership. "I have been proud of the many professional, civic and educational accomplishments of our talented alumni,"

says Brandt-Rauf. "So many alumni are using their public health education to make communities across the nation and around the world healthier and safer!"



Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf and Assistant Dean for Advancement, Craig Hyland, join alumni at the Environmental Protection Agency and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry on September 17, 2013.

A Visit from the Dean

We are looking for places of employment where a significant number of UIC SPH alumni work. Please contact us at SPHadvancement@uic.edu if you think your work place is one that Dean Brandt-Rauf should visit!

The Anne & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital and Northwestern Memorial Hospital are home to many UIC SPH alumni. Dean Brandt-Rauf met with them on September 11, 2013 to discuss the public health work they do on a daily basis.



Meet the New Alumni Board Members

UIC SPH is pleased to announce the addition of seven new members to the Alumni Board, including four new regional members. With half of the UIC SPH alumni body living beyond the borders of Illinois, the school has expanded the reach of the board by adding members from Atlanta and New York City, two regions

with large numbers of graduates. The regional members will plan social, educational and service events throughout the year. If you live in one of these regions and wish to help out, send a note to SPHAdvancement@uic.edu.

Chicago

Todd Stankewicz, MPH '01, MBA

Captain Stankewicz is a Commissioned Officer with the U.S. Public Health Service, one of seven uniformed services of the United States. Assigned to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as a Regional Pharmacy Officer, he provides clinical expertise on the implementation of the Medicare programs that impact pharmacy practice.



Gita Rampersad, JD, MHA '11

Ms. Rampersad is a healthcare consultant overseeing population health improvement efforts for local governments, health systems and communities using policy, systems and environmental change strategies. Most recently she founded the Blue Island Community Health Coalition.



Charlesnika Evans, PhD '07, MPH '99

Dr. Evans is a Research Health Scientist with Health Services Research & Development's Center for Management of Complex Chronic Conditions at the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital. She also serves as a Senior Associate at the VA Center for Occupational Health and Infection Control in the Office of Public Health.



New York

Cynthia Summers, DrPH '04

Dr. Summers currently serves as the Vice President of Public Education at Guttmacher Institute where she leads a diverse and growing array of communications and publications activities. She was honored at the UIC SPH 40th Anniversary Gala with the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award recognizing her career accomplishments.



Abby Long, MPH '03

Ms. Long is the Director of Marketing & Public Affairs for Danco Laboratories, LLC where she directs and manages all aspects of marketing and public relations for FDA approved drugs and serves as the sole company spokesperson in local, regional and national media.



Atlanta

Kira Christian, DVM, MPH '01, DACVPM

Dr. Christian serves as the Veterinary Medical Officer for the Global Disease Detection Operations Center at the Centers for Disease Control. She is part of a team that monitors impending outbreaks, mainly in developing countries.



Susie McCarthy, MPH '00

Ms. McCarthy is a Health Education Specialist for the Scientific Education and Professional Development Program Office at the Centers for Disease Control. Through the Office of Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Services, she facilitates trainings for fellows in the public health workforce.



Engage: 2013–14 Events

Alumni Learning Series

December 11, 2013

6 pm – 8 pm

Topic: The Affordable Care Act

UIC School of Public Health

1603 W. Taylor Street

Chicago, IL 60612

Healthy Spirits

February 12, 2014

5:30 pm – 8 pm

Elephant & Castle

185 N. Wabash Ave.

Chicago, IL 60601

Alumni Learning Series

March 12, 2014

6 pm – 8 pm

UIC School of Public Health

1603 W. Taylor Street

Chicago, IL 60612

Annual Alumni Reunion

April 10, 2014

5:30 pm – 9 pm

More information to come!

Healthy Spirits

May 14, 2014

5:30 pm – 8 pm

Plymouth Rooftop Bar

325 S. Plymouth Court

Chicago, IL 60604

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

EVENT

DETAILS

INFO

All UIC SPH alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends, as well as Illinois public health professionals are welcome to join us for a retro night in Boston's waterfront at Lucky's Lounge.



Stepping through the front door is like entering a swinging hipster lounge straight out of the '50s. Please feel free to invite colleagues, classmates and partners. Appetizers will be provided.

Monday, November 4, 2013

Lucky's Lounge
(2012 winner of Boston magazine's "Best of Boston" award)

355 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02210

5:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Please RSVP at: <https://illinois.edu/fb/sec/9861948>

Co-Sponsored By



HEALTHY SPIRITS

Alumni and friends join Dean Brandt-Rauf and Ron Hershow, division director of epidemiology and biostatistics, at the Healthy Spirits event on September 10, 2013.



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