

# Healthviews

FALL 2014 >> VOLUME 12 >> ISSUE TWO



## LEADING THE WAY in the Emergency Preparedness Field





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

**Left:** Photo taken by Cammeo Mauntel-Medici (MPH '13) in a rural village near Riohacha, Colombia. Here a Wayuu woman knits a purse, each of which takes about 3 full days of work to complete. Ms. Mauntel-Medici spent 11 months in Colombia, where she studied epidemiology at the Universidad of Antioquia and completed her practicum experience working with a team of epidemiologists to study tuberculosis in the prisons of Medellin, Colombia.

**Cover:** In her role at Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Response, Dr. Suzet McKinney (PhD '09) leads a press conference during the extreme weather conditions that Chicago experienced in the winter of 2013.

# Healthviews

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**Editor**

Sara Giloth

**Writers**

Maria Argos	Nora Gottlieb
Nicole Cardos and UIC News	Rohan Jeremiah
Robert Cohen	Veronica Johnston
Julie Darnell	Shanell L. McGoy
Ruth Fuller	Tracie Smith
Sara Giloth	Christina Welter

**Art Direction and Design**

Jill McClain, Design 23

**Printing**

Active

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The fall is always a busy time at the UIC School of Public Health, and this year is no exception. With the recent news of the Ebola outbreak, many of our faculty and alumni are fighting the spread of the disease on the ground and ensuring communities around the world are prepared for a future outbreak. Did you know that we offer a Certificate in Public Health Emergency Preparedness? Or that one of our alumni is responsible for leading Chicago's efforts as the Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Response? I'm very proud of our efforts, some of which are highlighted on pages 6-7.

Also in this issue of *Healthviews*, you'll read about how two of our undergraduate students spent their summers working to make the UIC campus a healthier place (page 2) and about our commitment to addressing climate change (pages 4-5). Key research that is taking place at the UIC School of Public Health is showcased on pages 12-14, where each of our four divisions is highlighted.

In the Advancing Health section, we announce a very special opportunity to support our Global Health Initiative. An anonymous donor has issued a \$250,000 matching gift challenge to help our students continue their work around the globe! Please read about their work in the National Scope/Global Impact section on pages 8-9, and then I hope you will consider making a gift to the Global Health Initiative to take advantage of this matching opportunity!

Lastly, I hope you enjoy reading an article about an alumna who has generously made an estate plan that includes the UIC School of Public Health. Many times when I meet alumni who benefitted from scholarship support when they were a student, they talk about "paying it forward" to support scholarships for current students. If you are interested in learning more about our

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Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Response? I'm very proud of our efforts, some of which are highlighted on pages 6-7.

new Legacy Society, which honors donors who have made plans for a deferred gift to the school, please contact Craig Hyland, Assistant Dean for Advancement, at craigh@uic.edu.

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

Mikita Lee (center) joins other members of the UIC community to present the campus' bid for the Obama Presidential Library.



# PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENTS USE THEIR EDUCATION TO MAKE UIC CAMPUS HEALTHIER

According to the World Health Organization, public health refers to all organized measures (whether public or private) to prevent disease, promote health, and prolong life among the population as a whole. Its activities aim to provide conditions in which people can be healthy and focus on entire populations. Thus, public health is concerned with the total system and not only the eradication of a particular disease.

A holistic approach to promoting health is what attracted two current students to pursue their undergraduate degrees at the UIC School of Public Health. Mikita Lee, a junior, and Hulliams Kamlem, a senior, were both involved in activities where they used their knowledge of public health to benefit the UIC campus. Ms. Lee was one of six UIC students who traveled to Washington, DC over the summer as part of a delegation to present UIC's bid for the Obama Presidential Library. As Chicago's only public research university and one of the most diverse campuses in the nation, members of the delegation said they felt UIC was the ideal institution to host the library.



Hulliams Kamlem measures trees on the UIC campus as part of the Office of Sustainability internship.

As one of thirteen institutions that submitted an application to host the library back in June, UIC was named one of four finalists in September.

Ms. Lee's role at the presentation included sharing information about how a library would impact the underserved community of North Lawndale in which it would reside. She spoke about the connection between healthy, vibrant communities and the health

of the people living in those communities. A historical building like the Presidential Library would "offer the children of the community the resources they need to do better in school," she explained. "In addition, this library would add value to the community, encouraging others to invest in it as well."

Ms. Lee's own background helped her see the value in adding this library to this community. "I live in a community where there are limited resources to make people healthier." She drew upon her personal experience when she spoke with congressional staff for Reps. Danny Davis, Luis Gutierrez and Mike Quigley, Sen. Dick Durbin and staff of the Barack Obama Foundation. She was honored to represent UIC and bring with her the public health perspective on why UIC should be chosen to house the library. "There aren't many people who can understand my perspective on health issues," explained Ms. Lee, who aspires to work for the federal government one day. "Public health is about helping communities that lack the financial resources" and she believes this resonates with President Obama's agenda.

While Ms. Lee was in Washington, DC advocating on behalf of UIC, her classmate, Mr. Kamlem was on the quad measuring trees. Through the UIC Office of Sustainability, Hulliams recorded tree measurements for UIC's tree inventory, a project affiliated with Tree Campus USA. Equipped with the right tools, he noted each tree's height, diameter and crown spread. The measurements were recorded in i-Tree, an app used to map trees on campus.

"I walked around campus and saw them, but I never really thought about trees and how important they are, and how pretty they are," said Mr. Kamlem. Now he has a favorite tree, a catalpa. "That wouldn't have happened if I didn't do this internship."

The connection between an internship in sustainability and a degree in public health was a natural fit for Mr. Kamlem. "Sustainability offers the lens through which every health policy, intervention, or plan should be studied," he said. He believes that solving health issues through measures that simultaneously value the ecosystem and do not undermine resources for future generations is essential. "Public health looks holistically at ways to improve health. This framework makes it so appealing because it involves all of us, gets at the heart of all fundamental human issues, and looks for solutions." ■

Evidence suggests that the world's climate is becoming warmer, increasing the potential for extreme weather events around the globe. What role can public health professionals play in addressing this challenge?

## UIC COMMUNITY WEIGHS IN...



Climate change has already begun to impact the 10 essential services provided by health departments, and this will only increase in the coming decades. Emergency preparedness specialists need to know that scenarios of extreme weather events need to be updated, and to include complex and cascading events, like power failures with heat waves, or flooding with contamination of drinking water sources.

– **Sam Dorevitch, MD**  
Associate Professor, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences



Public health practitioners have a broad range of roles to play in the challenge of climate change. By providing technical assistance to community-based organizations implementing both family planning and environmental services to communities in ecological hot spots, I am playing a role in reducing family size and providing alternative livelihoods for communities who have been dependent on decreased natural resources.

– **Hannah Foehringer Merchant, MPH '12**



First, public health professionals can act as role models by finding ways to reduce their own carbon footprints. Second, they can spread the word that climate change is real and happening now including impacting people's health (it is estimated that currently 300,000 people die worldwide each year from climate change and that number will grow). Finally, they can become politically active on this issue supporting candidates and policies that will help address climate change.

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



Public health professionals are an important part of everyday life. Prevention programs are one way they can help address environmental problems by teaching others proper ways to care for our planet. Once we address these problems there is a potential for better climate patterns and a healthier environment.

– **Ursula Tyl, Candidate**  
Bachelor of Arts in Public Health



We can help address this challenge by looking for approaches that provide co-benefits to health and climate action and making those connections evident in our work and to the public.

– **Cynthia Klein-Banai, PhD '10**  
Associate Chancellor for Sustainability  
University of Illinois at Chicago



Some of the roles those in public health can play include active participation in public education efforts, surveillance of health outcomes, and planning for how health resources should be directed to anticipate future needs in order to minimize the impacts to the most sensitive populations.

– **Mark D. Johnson, PhD, DABT**  
Regional Director/ Senior Environmental Health Scientist, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

# SAVING THE PLANET, ONE STUDENT AT A TIME



Michelle Tagle (far left, second row) joins a team of UIC public health and medical school students at the Engeye Health Clinic in Ddegeya, Uganda.

In the remote Ddegeya Village in Uganda, second year Community Health Sciences student Michelle Tagle, who was doing a field experience for her Master of Public Health degree, was given advice that she said will guide everything she does for the rest of her life.

“Climate-proof everything you do,” Ms. Tagle was told by the Ugandan representative to the United Nations on climate change. “That is always going to be engrained in my head.”

Ms. Tagle was a recipient of the Warren Lavey and Dr. Holly Rosencranz Climate Change Impact Award, which was created to encourage research and dissemination of information on the adverse public health impacts of global climate change.

“Uganda is known as the pearl of Africa,” Ms. Tagle said, who added that weather there had always been consistent and good for planting. “They never had an issue with climate change, but now they are seeing it.”

Climate change in Uganda is causing multiple public health problems, including flooding, which causes displacement and problems with planting; water borne diseases; changes in infectious diseases and more.

These are some of the same problems that climate change has caused in the U.S. Here, changes in precipitation patterns due to climate change have led to premature deaths, respiratory and cardiovascular problems and infectious diseases.

Leading the way on this issue at the UIC School of Public Health is Dr. Sam Dorevitch, an associate professor in the Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, who along with his team, received a four-year, nearly \$1 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Environmental Health, for their project titled “BRACE: Building Resilience Against Climate Effects in Illinois.” The team will develop a Climate and Health Adaptation Plan for Illinois to address the consequences of climate change and associated extreme weather events.

“Climate change affects health,” Dr. Dorevitch said. “We are helping the Illinois Department of Public Health and local health departments throughout Illinois adapt to climate change.”

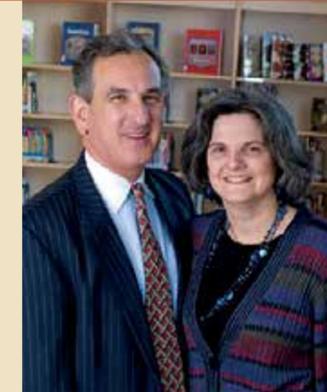
Dr. Dorevitch is also the professor of a course offered for the first time last spring called Climate Change and Public Health.

By taking this class, students will be prepared to lead an effort to prepare a health department or a non-profit organization for the health impacts of climate change. Guest speakers have included the Illinois State Climatologist and the director of Climate and Health Program at CDC. “Most schools of public health aren’t doing this yet,” he said.

Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf, DrPH, MD, ScD, said he would like to grow the faculty in global health with an emphasis on climate change and add at least one more professorship focused on climate change.

“Climate change is the single biggest global public health issue there is,” Dean Brandt-Rauf said.

Dean Brandt-Rauf said the school has had tremendous support from the faculty, students and some donors on this issue, which has enabled the school to be at the forefront and allow students, such as Ms. Tagle, to have practical experience in the field.



Warren Lavey and Dr. Holly Rosencranz

Warren Lavey said that he and his wife, Holly Rosencranz, who is an internal medicine physician who graduated from the UIC College of Medicine in 1982, have been trying for years to get students to think about the global impact of climate change, which is one of the main reasons they established the Climate Change Impact Award.

“Every student should be attuned to climate change and its impact on global public health,” he said.

Climate change affects so many aspects of public health, such as food security, availability of drinking water, ability to grow crops, communicable diseases and more, Mr. Lavey said.

“I believe the individual can make a difference, even though we have to move billions of individuals in the right direction,” Mr. Lavey said. ■



Dr. Sam Dorevitch

## ARE YOU DOING YOUR PART TO SAVE THE PLANET?

While recycling is an important part of making the world a greener place, if you really want to reduce your carbon footprint here are some tips that will make an impact:

- Choose an energy-efficient, high-mile per-gallon car
- Set your thermostat low in the winter and high in the summer
- Ride a bike (be sure to wear a helmet!)
- Take public transportation
- Take a train instead of a plane
- Make your house or apartment more energy efficient by ensuring it is well-insulated
- Reduce the size of your home or apartment
- Become a vegetarian (it is good for you and the environment)
- Grow a garden
- Plant a tree



# Educating the Best to Plan for the Worst

A TORNADO HITS YOUR COMMUNITY AND you need to set up a shelter and get your residents there safely. About 40 percent of your residents are foreign born and there are 100 different languages spoken. How do you communicate with the residents and get them to the shelter without causing panic? How do you treat those who have been injured by the tornado?

These are just some of the many scenarios that Master of Public Health candidate Frankie Catalfumo contemplated during his summer internship at the Village of Skokie, where he worked on a disaster preparedness project. Mr. Catalfumo has an EMT license, but says that there is much more than emergency medical training that is necessary to be able to respond to a disaster. “A public health background helps you understand all of the intricacies of the neighborhood,” he said. “When you understand the environment you can look at the bigger picture and help them recover from the disaster.”

The UIC School of Public Health offers a Certificate in Public Health Emergency Preparedness to qualified professionals in a completely online format. This certificate program builds skills and competency in preparing for and responding to public health emergencies. The man who created the Certificate in Public Health Emergency Preparedness is Barney Turnock, MD, MPH, clinical professor of Community Health Sciences.

Dr. Turnock said that students would benefit from receiving the certificate, as emergency response and planning is a

growing field in today’s workforce. “Almost any business operation – government, private, or voluntary – is at risk of some sort of emergency happening for which they will need to respond,” he said. “Responding to these emergencies is one of those ‘other duties as assigned’ and must be thought of ahead of time.”

Dr. Turnock said that certain kinds of emergencies have garnered public attention – from terrorism, to anthrax, to even routine flooding and tornadoes. “The more these events are publicized, the more the public expects prompt and professional responses,”

**“Public health practitioners are the silent heroes. No one pays attention to public health until there is an emergency.”**

he said. “And that can only happen through training, planning and preparation.”

Suzet McKinney, (DrPH ‘09), MPH, who serves as the Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Response, and the Division of Women & Children’s Health at the Chicago



Frank Catalfumo (left) assisting with Skokie's Mass Flu Shot Clinic

Department of Public Health, developed much of the content for the Certificate in Public Health Emergency Preparedness. Dr. McKinney also teaches most of the online courses for the certificate.

Dr. McKinney said that after completing the certificate program, students will leave with the strong foundational knowledge they need to enter the field as a practitioner in the emergency preparedness field. “We give students knowledge and experience that makes them more marketable,” she said.

Dr. McKinney, who received her DrPH from UIC in 2009, credits the education she received at the school for allowing her to obtain the position she now holds, where she oversees two departments, and a staff of 150 with a combined budget of \$26 million. She is also working with the U.S. Department of Public Health to assist Poland with a plan to prepare for bioterrorism. “The UIC School of Public Health gave me the tools to be successful as a deputy commissioner,” she said. “One thing they said (to all of the

DrPH candidates) was that their goal was to prime us to be leaders in public health, not just middle managers. They helped give me the confidence to lead.”

Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf, DrPH, MD, ScD said the online certificate is perfect for both busy working public health professionals and students at the UIC School of Public Health. “Part of the issue is that most people who practice public health were never trained in public health,” he said. So often, planning for a public health emergency can’t happen fast enough – such as in the case of the Ebola virus in many African countries, he said. “I was just in West Africa and they knew they had a problem with public health preparedness,” he said. “But unfortunately, they did not have the time.”

Several UIC School of Public Health alumni are engaged in the battle against the Ebola outbreak. Nelli Westercamp, (PhD ‘13, MPH ‘06), who is an epidemic intelligence service officer with the malaria branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is currently in Uganda. “I worked on Ebola response as part of the International



Catherine Counard, MD, MPH, discusses the Village of Skokie health plan with a community member. Photo credit: Brian O'Mahoney, Sun-Times Media

to get an MPH after feeling like she wanted to do more to affect the policies that were making people ill in the first place. “I had not intended to leave my medical practice, but public health policy is extremely important,” she said.

Dr. Counard supervised Mr. Catalfumo while he interned at her health department. She has had many student interns from the UIC School of Public Health who have been well-prepared to get right to work at a busy health department. “Frankie really stepped up to the challenge,” she said. “That’s what I like about the students from UIC. They can handle that type of challenge.”



Nelli Westercamp, PhD, MPH

Dr. McKinney said that the education a student gets when they receive a Certificate in in Public Health Emergency Preparedness can make a person more desirable for any type of employer. “Private sector businesses have struggled with how to respond to emergencies and disasters just like we do,” she said. “The skills they learn are designed to make them analyze things and complete problems.”

Mr. Catalfumo, who is graduating in December and hoping to find a job in emergency response with an international humanitarian organization, or government organization, hopes the skills he has learned at the school and through his internship have made him marketable. “My education from the SPH has made me a much stronger team player and leader,” he said. “Understanding how to collaborate and function while working towards one main goal is a skill that will get me very far in my field of emergency preparedness.” ■

Catherine Counard, MD, a 2000 alumna of the MPH program who serves as the Director of Health for the Village of Skokie, completely agreed. “Our role in public health is behind the scenes so that people can live a healthy life,” she said. Already a practicing physician, Dr. Counard went on

## PREPARE CHICAGO

Because a Local Response is the Best Response, Prepare Chicago teaches residents how to prepare their families, how to work together as a community and how to volunteer in an emergency.

### WHAT IS A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY?

An event, either natural or manmade, that creates a health risk to the public.

### TYPES OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

- Extreme weather conditions and natural disasters
- Deliberate releases of biological and chemical agents or radiological threats
- Epidemics and pandemics of influenza and other communicable diseases like Ebola

### PREPARE YOUR FAMILY

Be aware of and prepare for your family’s unique needs in an emergency. Make a family plan in advance and build a readiness kit.

#### ✓ Make a Plan

Establish a family emergency plan that details how you will contact one another in an emergency. Outline how you will get to a safe place and how you will get back together if separated. Visit [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) for more information on family emergency communication and planning.

#### ✓ Build a Kit

A family readiness kit includes essential items that can keep your family safe and healthy in an emergency. Make a kit for yourself, your family and your pets. Keep a kit in your home, your car and at work. A complete list of items to consider for you kit can be found at [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov).

### PREPARE TOGETHER

In a disaster, the people that surround you – your neighbors – will be the ones in your community that you and your family turn to for immediate help. That’s why it is always important to check on your neighbors and prepare as a community for emergencies, especially those that are seasonal like extreme heat and cold.

### PREPARE TO HELP

Volunteer with the Chicago Medical Reserve Corps (CMRC) and use your skills to help Prepare Chicago for a public health emergency. CMRC has over 400 medical and non-medical professionals who assist in community/faith-based events, public health emergencies and local disasters. Fill out an online form at [www.illinoishelps.net](http://www.illinoishelps.net) to become a CMRC volunteer or email [ChicagoMRC@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ChicagoMRC@cityofchicago.org).



In her role as Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Response at the Chicago Department of Public Health, Suzet McKinney, DrPH, oversees the City’s disaster preparedness activities.

# Making a Difference in the Health of Populations Around the World

## Colombia

**Cammeo Mauntel-Medici** (MPH '13) spent a year in Medellin where she took courses in the Master of Epidemiology program at the Universidad de Antioquia. She worked with a team of epidemiologists from the university to research tuberculosis in the local prisons, and worked to develop a clean water project for an indigenous community.



Cammeo Mauntel-Medici (third from left)

## Uganda

**Michelle Tagle**, a student in community health sciences, joined a team of public health students at Makerere University School of Public Health to partner with local professionals where she learned about the country's healthcare system. She worked on the Ambulance Program Evaluation and proposed service delivery alternatives that would improve cost-effectiveness and sustainability.



Michelle Tagle (second from right)

## China

The Fogarty AIDS International Training and Research Program (AITRP) hosted President Runsheng Jiang and four upper administrators from Kunming Medical University (KMU) in China on October 13, 2014. Funded by NIH since the year 2000, and directed by **Dr. Judith Levy**, Interim Director of Global Health and Associate Professor of Health Policy and Administration, AITRP partners with academic institutions in four countries in providing AIDS research training. Drawing on a successful history of institutional partnership with the AITRP, the delegation met with representatives from health sciences colleges at UIC to discuss mutual interests and possible research, training, and faculty/student exchanges in health areas beyond those of HIV.



Judith Levy (front row, far right)

## Gabonese Republic

Epidemiology student **Bruce Larkin** spent the summer in Gabon, where he led a survey study that measured HIV stigma and knowledge among adults. The results of the study will help local NGOs understand how to better educate their communities on HIV.



Bruce Larkin (left)

## Botswana

Community health sciences student, **Jana Young**, worked at the Botswana-Baylor Children's Clinic Centre of Excellence for her global health practicum. Her work included developing a genetics-focused curriculum for the monthly Teen Club, collaborating with the Consortium for African Genomics project, and interacting with adolescents around health and medicine.



Jana Young

## Kenya

**Michele Hom** is a student in community health sciences who spent her summer working at Safe Water and AIDS Project (SWAP) in Kisumu, Kenya. She helped with a 1-year study to decrease maternal and infant deaths and increase delivery in health facilities. Her work included encouraging pregnant women to attend health clinics earlier for Antenatal Care (ANC) by using mobile technology to text clinic visits and health tips.



Michele Hom (third from right)

## Student Exchange With Mexico's National Institute of Public Health

IN THE SUMMER OF 2013, THE UIC SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH began a student exchange collaboration with El Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública (INSP) (National Institute of Public Health) in Cuernavaca, Mexico. UIC School of Public Health sent two MPH students to Cuernavaca to conduct their field practicum under the guidance of INSP faculty members. The institute, which offers over 25 graduate degree programs in the health sciences, is the only public health institution in Latin America that is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health.

The success of the exchange in its first year led the school to expand the partnership in the summer of 2014. This year, in addition to sending MPH candidate in community health sciences, Micaello Verro, to Cuernavaca, UIC School of Public Health hosted four MPH students from INSP. The students from Cuernavaca conducted summer field practicums with the following community and university partners.

- Lilita Marisol Ponce Ramos, a student focusing on social and behavioral sciences, worked with Dr. David DuBois on the Step-it-up-2-Thrive model which empowers youth to reach their full potential.
- María Jocelyn Bravo Ruvalcaba, a general physician, trained under Dr. Amparo Castillo in the field of diabetes prevention.
- Under the guidance of Janna Simon and Jessica Lynch at the Illinois Public Health Institute, Gabriela Armendáriz Aguirre and Daniela Antúnez Albarrán worked in partnership with the Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity on the Rethink Your Drink campaign.



"As Mexico is also combatting obesity or confronting challenges faced by youth, the exchange represents the importance of a bi-directional flow of information between equally valuable partners to resolve today's global health challenges," said Alyson Lofthouse, Associate Director, Global Health. "We can learn from each other. Upon conclusion of the practicum experience, all four students identified how they will incorporate what they learned into their work at home in Mexico."

Dr. Jesus Ramirez-Valles, Division Director of Community Health Sciences, added, "This is a logical and natural exchange of talent that we hope to institutionalize."

The School of Public Health looks forward to future collaboration with El Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ATTRACTS VISITING SCHOLAR TO UIC

**T**he team spirit and community engagement of the researchers the UIC School of Public Health are what brought me to Chicago,” says Nora Gottlieb, PhD. A Fulbright post-doctoral fellowship and additional support from the Jewish Federation’s Visiting Scholar Program, which is now based in the UIC School of Public Health, made the trip possible. Dr. Gottlieb arrived last May from Israel with her husband and 1-year old son.



Nora Gottlieb, PhD, with her husband and son.

Dr. Gottlieb never planned for an academic career in public health. Growing up in Germany, she spent most of her time playing volleyball. “My academic education then followed a somewhat winding road,” she says. First, she obtained a state degree in special education from the University of Education in Heidelberg, during which she focused on interventions with persons with autistic disorders. In order to qualify for overseas work, she then enrolled in a European Master’s program in International Health, based at Charité Medical School Berlin. “My thesis led me to Israel, where I have family, and to a close collaboration with the Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHR-IL),” Dr. Gottlieb explains. “The goal of this joint venture was to examine and improve access to antenatal care among Bedouin-Arab women from unrecognized villages in South Israel.” This collaboration proved to be an eye-opening experience, which caused her to reorient herself from humanitarian and development assistance towards the social, economic and political factors that shape peoples’ and communities’ health.

After completing her Master’s degree in 2005, Dr. Gottlieb moved to Tel Aviv-Yafo to work with PHR-IL as a women’s health rights coordinator, and soon after she began to work on her PhD

at Ben-Gurion University in South Israel. For her dissertation, she investigated the political decision-making processes on documented and undocumented labor migrants’ health rights in Germany and Israel and their underlying rationales and values. “At the same time, I continued to volunteer with PHR-IL on issues related to migrants’ health rights. This work was invaluable for me in that it let me follow policy decisions through various institutional levels to the day-to-day impact on the health and lives of men and women living and working in Israel,” she says.

Through the Jewish Federation’s Visiting Scholar Program, Dr. Gottlieb will spend one year working at the UIC School of Public Health in the Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences. “We are delighted to be the new home at UIC for the Visiting Scholar in Israeli Studies Program that is funded by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago,” says Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf. “Among other things, this will help to solidify our existing partnership with Ben Gurion University as well as allow us to develop new relationships with other Israeli universities.”

Identifying a significant need, early in the first decade of the 21st century, the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago determined that it would add to its already-extensive campus-based activities by embarking on a type of project then new for it and rare in Jewish communal life: the advancement of serious study of Israel in local universities. With that decision taken and initial funding provided, the Federation’s Israel Studies Project was established. The project was first inaugurated at UIC in the Fall of 2007 and for the first time in the School of Public Health in the Fall of 2014.

Administered through the school’s Global Health Program, Dr. Gottlieb will assist with several research projects dealing with low-wage workers’ health and will teach a course on Public Health Ethics in the Spring of 2015. “I find it very special that many UIC researchers are truly committed to working in inter-disciplinary teams and to doing community-based, practice-oriented research. It is a great opportunity for me to work with UIC faculty, students and community partners and to learn from their expertise and experience.” ■

**“The team spirit and community engagement of the researchers the UIC School of Public Health are what brought me to Chicago.”**

## Reversing the Tide of Violence in South Africa



heart for those who have become caught up in “gang life.” He actively recruits those he believes can improve the quality of the CeaseFire program, as well as the quality of their own lives. “Leaving gang life requires a lot of will and courage,” says Pastor Engel. “You lose all power... sometimes you also have a criminal record, a drug problem, no job and no respect from anyone.” Serving as CeaseFire members provides them with emotional support, status in the community, an identity and a purpose.

As is the case with all Cure Violence partner sites, Hanover Park tackles the violence epidemic using the three-fold strategy:

- **Detect and interrupt potentially lethal conflict:** Trained Violence Interrupters and Outreach Workers walk the streets in branded black and yellow CeaseFire jackets, identifying the “hot spots,” deescalating ongoing tensions, and preventing retaliations.
- **Identify and treat high-risk individuals:** Outreach Workers play a critical role as mentor, practicing behavior modification and skills development, as well as providing resources for drug treatment, job preparation and access to employment.
- **Change social norms:** Through constant messaging and community dialogue, the CeaseFire team is working to drive away a deep-rooted fear in the community that being outdoors will result in falling victim to stray bullets.

IN 2011, A NEIGHBORHOOD OF CAPE TOWN, South Africa, began to view severe violence and “gang problems” as a health crisis. Before long, several members of the UIC School of Public Health’s Cure Violence program in Chicago traveled to Cape Town to assess the violence, gather data, and begin assembling and training a local team. In 2013, the Hanover Park CeaseFire (HPC) program officially launched – the first of its kind on the African continent.

Pastor Craven Engel, founder of the First Community Resource Center, serves as HPC’s CEO. Pastor Engel is tailor made for the job, because of his knowledge of the community, his local presence, and his ability to mobilize resources. He has a



Cure Violence Community Coordinator, Marcus McAllister (directly under Mandela image), with members of Hanover Park CeaseFire.

**“Leaving gang life requires a lot of will and courage.”**

Pastor Engel and the 12 CeaseFire team members have achieved enormous success. In their first year of implementation, the community experienced a 32% drop in non-fatal shootings and a 38% drop in homicides. By June 30 2014, 11 out of the 13 beats covered by the CeaseFire program have exceeded 100 days with no gun fatalities. Not only are those results impressive, but Hanover Park’s creative and diligent data collection includes a CeaseFire cell phone App to capture data on evolving violence hot spots in the area. Combining ease and efficiency, the App helps to predict and prevent violence.

Reversing a tide of violence in South Africa’s Hanover Park community is remarkable. However, Pastor Engel and his team are not satisfied. “To one day reach 365 days of zero violence – that is our ultimate mission.” ■



Top, left: An image showing Hanover Park CeaseFire’s commitment to zero violence and ease in obtaining safety updates via text messaging.

Left: The Hanover Park CeaseFire team showing the sign for “Mission Zero.”

## Division of Health Policy and Administration

HOW, AND HOW WELL, THE PUBLIC HEALTH system serves low-income populations who are at high risk of falling through the cracks are the overarching research questions that concern Dr. Julie Darnell, Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Administration. These questions fit within an emerging field of study known as “public health systems research,” which focuses on how the organization, financing, and delivery of public health services by governmental and nongovernmental entities impact population health. Though Dr. Darnell analyzes a variety of under-studied institutions—free clinics, community health centers, and local health departments—her work always returns to a set of common questions regarding how the public health system is organizing its limited resources to meet the critical needs of disadvantaged populations.

For instance, in a recently-completed study of succession planning activities in local health departments (LHDs), Dr. Darnell examined the extent to which LHDs were involved in succession

planning—a novel workforce strategy that has been shown in other settings to generate operational efficiencies. Such efficiencies may be especially desirable in LHDs, which face an aging workforce, increasing demand for services, and chronic budgetary pressures. Turning to community health centers, Dr. Darnell has worked with Dr. Elizabeth Calhoun to develop and evaluate a patient navigation program, which have proliferated in safety net institutions to help the medically underserved obtain timely care by resolving barriers.

Dr. Darnell is perhaps best known for her work on free clinics, which are volunteer-led, nonprofit organizations that deliver healthcare services to uninsured, low-income individuals at little or no cost. In 2006, she conducted a nationwide survey of free clinics—the first of its kind in nearly four decades. Data from her survey established that free clinics are an important adjunct to the formal safety net and showed that they are gap-fillers in the public health system. Currently,

she is collaborating with AmeriCares and the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, to conduct a second wave of her survey in early 2015. The 2015 free clinic survey will allow her to answer two questions: How do free clinics change over time, and what factors predict their survival? These questions have taken on additional policy relevance in the post-Affordable Care Act environment.



## Division of Community Health Sciences

DR. ROHAN D. JEREMIAH, ASSISTANT Professor of Community Health Sciences and affiliated faculty member at the Chicago Development Center for AIDS Research, is a global public health researcher dedicated to addressing issues related to men's health and health inequities in the US and abroad. He is uniquely trained within the disciplines of Medical Anthropology and Public Health,



and has worked in numerous countries throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the US.

Dr. Jeremiah is committed to developing public health strategies and interventions that will reduce adverse risk outcomes and enhance health promotion activities for at-risk men. Currently, he is collaborating with the Chicago Task Force For Immigration and Refugee Health. The state of Illinois remains a popular destination for migrant populations including recently arrived immigrants and refugees. However, the scope and scale of migration have evolved rapidly with more diverse groups arriving with unique health needs driven by a combination of social, economic, geopolitical, demographic and environmental factors. Such factors are attributed to domestic violence and sexual-risk behavioral patterns within the community. Through this collaborative project, Dr. Jeremiah is exploring the health needs of refugee men, and will develop contextually tailored interventions

to enhance their health and social service programs.

In another study, Dr. Jeremiah is exploring the syndemic existence of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and HIV/AIDS risk factors among minority Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) individuals. Research has shown that multiple minority stressors have contributed synergistically to the excess burden of disease especially for socially marginalized and vulnerable populations. Such challenges have not been studied extensively to understand how minority LGBT individuals navigate multiple and overlapping negative health impacts (racism, classism and homonegativism) that correlate to their increased exposure to these health challenges. His focus is on the multidimensional psychosocial problems that are caused by additive effects of syndemic conditions. The National Institutes of Health Loan Repayment Plan, on behalf of the National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities recently awarded this study.

## Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

DR. ROBERT COHEN, CLINICAL PROFESSOR of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, is an occupational pulmonologist with a strong interest in mining populations, particularly coal miners. With his increased time commitment at the UIC School of Public Health in September of 2013, Cohen has built a diverse concentration on miners' health, which includes clinical, research, and service components, called the Miners Health Study Group (MHSG).

The foundation of his clinical work is a \$2.1 million, three-year award from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to establish a new Black Lung Clinic Program consortium as is training and education. An important part of the work done at the Black Lung Clinic Program is performed out of an outreach clinic in Springfield, where Occupational Medicine residents gain experience by working with Dr. Cohen to screen miners for pneumoconiosis. The Black Lung Center of Excellence, another award from HRSA, is providing consultation and support to all federally

funded black lung clinics. The program will provide state of the art diagnostic, treatment, and rehabilitation services as well as benefits counseling and legal expertise to miners who lack these highly specialized resources. The program is also designed to enhance communication between stakeholders in the mining community and federal agencies that study diseases in mining populations and regulate mining industries so that information on the patterns and intensity of disease may be fed back to these agencies and industries to improve primary prevention, regulatory, and enforcement activities.

Dr. Cohen's research, funded by the Alpha Foundation for the Improvement of Mine Safety and Health and the US Department of Labor (DOL) Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), is focused on analyzing existing data systems including state and federal workers' compensation systems as well as national health surveillance and workplace monitoring programs to better understand the determinants of adverse

health and injuries in miners. The focus of this research is a better understanding of the causes of obstructive lung disease and cardiovascular disease in these vulnerable populations.

Key partners in this work include Dr. Cecile Rose of National Jewish Health in Denver, Dr. Judith Graber of Rutgers University, Dr. Edward Lee Petsonk of West Virginia University, Drs. Scott Laney and Eileen Storey of The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's Division of Respiratory Disease Studies, and Drs. Leslie Stayner and Lee Friedman of the UIC School of Public Health.



## Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

DR. MARIA ARGOS, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, is an environmental and molecular epidemiologist whose research has focused on the health effects of arsenic exposure through the consumption of naturally-contaminated groundwater in rural Bangladesh. Arsenic is one of



the most common naturally occurring contaminants found in the environment, and chronic exposure is associated with a number of health outcomes including cancers, cardiovascular, respiratory, liver, and kidney diseases, neurodevelopment, cognition, reproduction, and diabetes. While much of the research supporting these associations has evaluated arsenic exposure in adulthood, there is growing epidemiologic literature to suggest that arsenic exposure in utero and in early childhood may profoundly influence disease later in life.

Dr. Argos recently received a National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences funded grant to launch a 5-year study of prenatal and early life arsenic exposure in a cohort of 500 mother-child pairs in Araihasar, Bangladesh. While arsenic has been reported to be a potent endocrine disruptor, the molecular and clinical endocrine impacts of arsenic in human populations have not been previously well

characterized. Therefore, the objectives of the study will be to evaluate whether in utero arsenic exposure and early childhood arsenic exposure are associated with thyroid and steroid hormones levels, gene expression alterations, and endocrine-related phenotypes (i.e., linear growth, blood pressure, and insulin resistance) in children aged 2-7 years. The study will also evaluate whether genetic variants in an established arsenic-metabolism gene modify these associations. Through this project, Dr. Argos hopes to inform future arsenic prevention and remediation efforts towards public health interventions targeted to pregnant women, women of child-bearing age, and children.

Dr. Argos' co-investigators include Dr. Victoria Persky and Dr. Jin Liu from UIC, Dr. Habibur Ahsan from University of Chicago, and Dr. Joseph Graziano from Columbia University.

## Promoting Health in Old Age

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HUMAN HISTORY, old age is now commonplace in a growing number of places in the world. By 2030, one in five Americans will be at least 65 years old. By 2050, over two billion older adults will populate the earth. This worldwide population shift will change and challenge economies, healthcare systems, cultures, communities and families.

Aging affects not only people who live beyond 65, Naoko Muramatsu says “We all are aging. It starts at birth and does not discriminate.”



A home care aide works with her client, a mother participating in Dr. Muramatsu's study.

Dr. Muramatsu, associate professor of community health sciences, has worked to improve the public health response to older adults and the people who care for them for more than 20 years. With cross-cultural policy analyses and intervention development, her research focuses on the care and support that very old and frail adults need to remain in their communities. She studies the quality of long-term care systems to improve and enhance the well-being and health of older adults, their families and their caregivers.

Caregivers play a critical role in helping older adults maintain their independence and stay out of nursing homes. Although family members primarily look after their elders, the role of non-family caregivers

is increasing as more old people live alone. Health systems, however, do not recognize the contributions of caregivers in maintaining the health of the very old, nor do they engage them as partners, says Muramatsu. She sees an opportunity there.

With funding from the National Institute on Aging, she is piloting a program that trains home care aides to deliver a safe, simple physical activity program in the homes of their frail clients.

“It’s critical to incorporate this kind of program into the healthcare system,” says Dr. Muramatsu, who conducts this research at the Institute for Health Research and Policy, where she is a Fellow. “Although many physical activity programs exist for older adults, most are too intense for frail seniors.”

Dr. Muramatsu and her team are recruiting 65 pairs of home care aides in a Medicaid-supported home care program and their clients in the Chicago area. To do this, they are collaborating with the state, a labor union, the home care agency, and other community organizations, who are excited

about this study’s potential. Dr. Muramatsu hopes this work will pave way to a larger, successful trial as a cost-effective health promotion measure. She also hopes it will foster attention to long-term care supports and services and recognition of caregivers in the larger health care system, where they are “ignored and underutilized, despite many years of experience in taking care of older people,” Dr. Muramatsu said.

Despite being a global challenge, long-term care tends to be studied in one country at a time, Muramatsu says. She wants to see multinational analyses and understanding of long-term care



Dr. Naoko Muramatsu

**“We are all aging. It starts at birth and does not discriminate.”**

systems. Recent seed funding by the UIC School of Public Health will allow her to build a new line of research in comparing systems in the U.S. and Japan, where she was born and raised. Japan’s population is the oldest in the world, and Japanese adults begin contributing to universal long-term care insurance at age forty. Dr. Muramatsu, who has published on Japanese health policy for years, believes public health policymakers and practitioners worldwide can learn a lot from each other. ■



## Alumna “Pays it Forward” Through Generous Estate Gift

SAUNDRA SPILOTRO (MPH '76) RECALLS the very day she first became interested in public health. She was an undergraduate student working on her nursing degree and, as part of her clinical work, she joined a visiting nurse on rotation. Helping care for people in their home was already part of Mrs. Spilotro’s life mission, but she knew that obtaining a Master’s degree in public health would help advance her career. “Nurses have a broad knowledge of health care,” she explains, “and I wanted a degree that would allow me to hold leadership positions where I would have the most impact.”

Over the course of a thirty-year career, Mrs. Spilotro helped develop the first home health care department at Rush Hospital, went on to become a CEO of a home care company, and traveled around the country to speak about standards for accrediting home health and hospice organizations. Her success, she and her husband, Peter, say, is due in part to the education she received at UIC. When it came time to establish an estate plan, Mr. and Mrs. Spilotro knew that UIC would be one of the places they supported. “We wanted to give

back to an institution that contributed so much to our success,” Mr. Spilotro said.

As a graduate student in the mid-1970’s, Mrs. Spilotro was a young, newly married, nurse just starting out in her career. She says she was fortunate enough to be the recipient of a scholarship. “This enabled me to earn my degree with less financial stress. Today, the cost of college tuition is a burden on so many people and we felt it was time to pay it forward.”

Mr. and Mrs. Spilotro became charter members of the UIC School of Public Health Legacy Society when they listed the school as a beneficiary of their estate. “By including the school in their estate plan, they are making a long-term and long-lasting investment in the future of public health,” said Craig Hyland, Assistant Dean for Advancement. “Their generous support will ensure that the UIC School of Public Health continues to provide financial support to the best and brightest of tomorrow’s leaders.”

Her philanthropic relationship with the school didn’t start when she and her husband decided to leave a gift in their will. As a member of the school’s alumni board



Saundra and Peter Spilotro

throughout the 1980s, Mrs. Spilotro led an effort with fellow board member, Sharon Sharrett (MPH '77), to raise the first endowed fund at the school honoring Dr. Paul Q. Peterson. “As a board, we wanted to do something that would have the largest impact for students and fundraising for scholarships made the most sense,” Mrs. Spilotro recalls. “I am excited to see that the school now has several endowed scholarships.”

The Spilotros’ gift to the school will support a registered nurse pursuing an advanced degree in public health. “Peter and I are fortunate to be able to do this. It just feels right,” Mrs. Spilotro said. “We hope our gift will inspire others who have been successful in their careers, and are in a financial position to do so, to give back.” ■

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### THE IMPACT

Legacy Society members invest in the future. 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

### THE BENEFITS

Legacy Society members enjoy many engagement opportunities.

- Invitation to the **ANNUAL LEGACY SOCIETY RECEPTION**
- Invitation to **AN EVENING WITH LEGACIES AND LEADERS DINNER**
- Exclusive invitations to **PRIVATE RECEPTIONS** at UIC SPH hosted lectures.
- **SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS**

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Joining is easy:

- Simply ask your attorney to change your will or revocable trust, or sign a new beneficiary designation for your retirement plan or IRA.
- Your gift can be a stated sum of cash or a percentage of your estate, trust, retirement plan or IRA.
- Deferred gifts can be directed to any fund or program at the school. They should be designated to the University of Illinois Foundation.



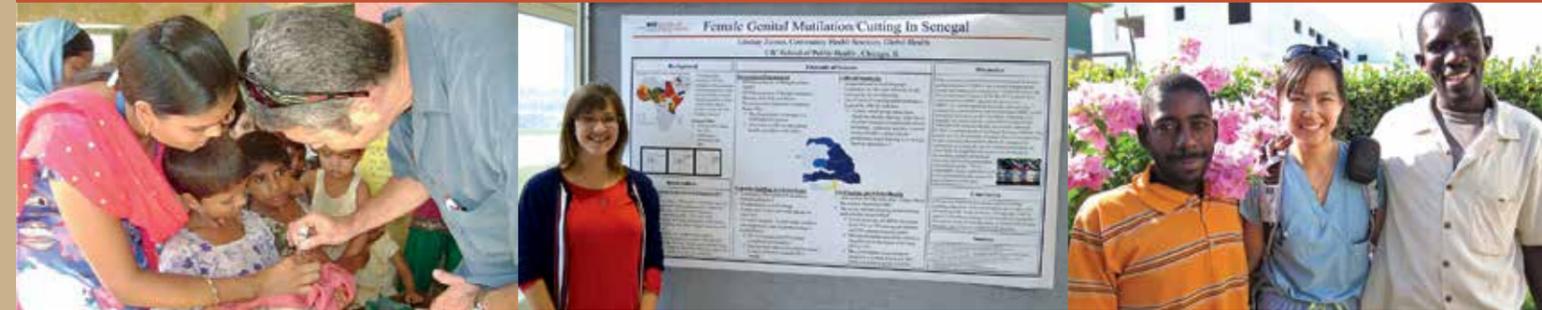
WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN THE

# 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.

# ANONYMOUS DONOR GIVES \$250,000 MATCHING CHALLENGE GIFT



As we celebrate five years of the UIC School of Public Health's Global Health Program, a very generous donor is challenging the UIC School of Public Health alumni and friends to support the school's Global Health Program through a \$250,000 match – if we raise \$250,000 the donor will match it! "We're very excited about this opportunity because all donations, no matter what size, will be matched," said Craig Hyland, Assistant Dean for Advancement. "This means that a donor's impact on the school's work around the world will be doubled."

Global health is an evolving field with continually changing dimensions. Lack of access to basic services, high rates of maternal mortality, widespread nutritional deficiencies, and increasing rates of non-communicable diseases are only a few of today's global ills. Effective combat of today's global problems requires integrated solutions derived from a cross-disciplinary knowledge base.

The Global Health Program at the UIC School of Public Health leads efforts and fosters effective collaborations to promote health and well-being worldwide. The program builds and supports partnerships among local, national, and international scholars, practitioners, and organizations for global health research, teaching, and practice. Student and faculty activities span the globe to include countries located throughout Africa, Asia, India, North and South America, Europe, the Caribbean, and the Pacific. These activities enhance the education of our students by fostering their development as future partners and leaders in global health, and propel and support the work of faculty and collaborators in addressing today's global health challenges.

For most students, an international field practicum is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see and experience public health practice in the real world in countries such as Rwanda, Guatemala, India and China. One such student is Alyssa Budoff, an MPH candidate in the community health sciences division, who is working in Haiti to further develop a community-informed disaster risk reduction training program. She first traveled to Haiti in March 2013 with a multidisciplinary team from UIC to implement a pilot Train-the-Trainers program focused on community engagement in disaster risk reduction. "I am working with local partners to refine and implement a curriculum aimed at developing local capacity to assess, mitigate, and manage the impact of potential future disasters," Ms. Budoff explains.

Ms. Budoff joins several other students who will be involved in our Global Health Program this year, and a group of fifty-five students who have traveled to twenty-eight countries around the world. "We are uniquely positioned as a leader in promoting global health internationally and within the global communities of Chicago," says Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf. "There is no better time to support the Global Health Program and take advantage of this challenge to double your impact!" ■

## 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 **AN EVENING WITH LEGACIES AND LEADERS 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.

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ADVANCING HEALTH EDUCATION

DEVELOPING LEADERS AND POLICIES



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TRANSFORMING LIVES WORLDWIDE

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# Illinois Public Health Association



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO School of Public Health strives to align its service, teaching and research initiatives to the practice of public health. Having a leadership role in and serving as a key member in the Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA) is one key strategy to facilitate this important academic-practice connection.

Established in 1940, the Illinois Public Health Association, an affiliate of the American Public Health Association (APHA), is Illinois' oldest and largest voluntary organization devoted exclusively to matters of public health. IPHA is a well-known and respected health organization seen as an innovator in the field of public health, with nearly 7,000 members

Interest Sections organized around the various disciplines and special interest areas of public health. These sections are designed to give IPHA members the opportunity to come together to: develop policy resolutions; program content for the annual meeting and other continuing education programs; provide for professional and social networking; interact with other section members through list serves and newsletters; career development; and mentoring. IPHA is working on creating a new Student Caucus as part of our Special Interest Sections.

UIC School of Public Health faculty and staff collaborate with IPHA on numerous workforce development efforts. For example, in 2013, IPHA agreed to partner with UIC School of Public Health and host the Public Health Practitioner Certification Board, Inc., who is committed to building a competent workforce by offering competency-based certification to public health practitioners. Most recently, IPHA partnered with UIC School of Public Health on its successful application to establish a Health Resources and Services Administration

co-sponsored a reception at APHA for several years. UIC School of Public Health and IPHA are already planning for the APHA 2015 Annual Meeting in Chicago, along with other Public Health partners.

Under its Executive Director, Tom Hughes, IPHA is working to refresh its image and has taken even more of a leadership role in public health. IPHA introduced its newly developed logo at the 2014 Annual meeting, and is in the final stages of a major re-design of the website and will feature an interactive career section where students will be able to create a profile, post resumes, search for current job openings in public health, connect with internship and practicum opportunities, etc.

In addition to these important changes at IPHA, IPHA is also working to increase coordination within the public health community in Illinois. On September 30, 2014, IPHA hosted one of the first known meetings in which all Illinois public health associations gathered. With representation from the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium, the Illinois Association for Public Health Administrators, the Illinois Public Health Institute, MidAmerica Center for Public Health Practice and the UIC School of Public Health, IPHA called the group together to discuss how the public health community might better collaborate on a variety of issues.

"IPHA's recent linkage with other public health advocacy groups is encouraging as doors are being opened to not only discuss legislation but also other areas where we can collaborate and support public health practice, whether it be policy, funding or planning for the future of public health in Illinois" said Mr. Hughes. UIC School of Public Health was pleased to be a part of this important meeting and sees great opportunity for an even closer relationship with IPHA and its other public health partners to help maximize and align resources and drive health improvement in Illinois. ■



Tom Hughes (second row) joined members of Illinois' major public health associations at a gathering on September 30, 2014.

statewide. As a recent award recipient of the APHA Affiliate of the year, IPHA is considered the 'voice of Illinois.'

UIC School of Public Health and IPHA work collaboratively to promote public health improvement and have partnered on a number of different initiatives. "For our work at the School to be successfully translated to society and have an impact on the health of the public, we need strong partners outside of academia. One of our most significant partners in this regard is IPHA since it serves to bring us together with the community of public health practitioners across Illinois," said Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf.

UIC School of Public Health faculty take an active role in IPHA by participating in or leading one of IPHA's 18 Special

(HRSA) Region V Public Health Training Center. As a result, IPHA, UIC School of Public Health and several other public health organizational partners will collaborate on the first ever public health workforce development committee to coordinate and leverage workforce development opportunities in the state.

IPHA also supports UIC School of Public Health students. UIC School of Public Health students often present posters at IPHA annual conference and numerous UIC students have served in IPHA's AmeriCorps Program providing invaluable service to local communities. UIC School of Public Health students also receive IPHA's annual graduate study scholarship. IPHA also provides student stipends to attend APHA, where IPHA and UIC School of Public Health have

# Celebrating the Achievements of Students, Alumni, Faculty and Staff

■ **Jay Bhatt**, DO, (MPH '08), MPA, FACP, Chief Innovation Officer at the Chicago Department of Public Health, co-authored an article in the Harvard Business Review titled *How Cities Are Using Analytics to Improve Public Health*.

■ **Susan Buchanan**, MD, MPH, clinical associate professor of environmental and occupational health sciences, joined hundreds of health professionals working in the nation's most coal-dependent region in support of the first-ever federal limits on carbon pollution from power plants. She participated in a press conference and signed a letter calling on the Obama administration to support the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in its efforts to regulate carbon emissions from existing power plants. The EPA unveiled the first-ever standards to limit carbon pollution from power plants.



Susan Buchanan

■ **Elizabeth Cohen** (MPH '13), who works for FHI 360, was a panelist at the Micronutrient Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in June 2014, presenting on engagement of the private sector and informal medical practitioners for the uptake of zinc and Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) in treatment of childhood diarrhea in Uttar Pradesh, India.

■ The National Cancer Registrars Association awarded "Best Paper" to **Therese A. Dolecek**, research associate professor of epidemiology and biostatistics, and **Bridget J. McCarthy**, assistant professor of epidemiology and biostatistics, for their Spring 2013 paper titled *The Impact of the Benign Brain Tumor*

*Cancer Registries Amendment Act (Public Law 107-260) on Non-Malignant Brain and Central Nervous System Tumor Incidence Trends*.

■ **Barbara Epstein** (MPH '78) recently relocated from Atlanta to Portland, OR where she now works as senior project manager for the environmental health consulting firm, Forensic Analytical Consulting Services (FACS).

■ **Alex Ewing**, a student in the division of epidemiology and biostatistics with a global health concentration, has been awarded a Reproductive Health Fellowship within the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

■ **David A. Fisher**, MD, (MPH '96) is the new Medical Director at Brittany Place, a continuing care retirement and skilled nursing facility in North Carolina.

■ **Alison Goldstein** (MPH '13) and **Rachel Reichlin** (MPH '14) were elected by Illinois Public Health Association to serve on their nominating committee from 2015-2017.



Mary Gynn

■ **Mary Gynn**, RN, BSN, MSN/MS, (MPH '91) recently retired from the College of Lake County's Bio/Science department. Now working as a Diabetes Educator and Health Literacy Promoter, she founded [www.teachingforhealth.com](http://www.teachingforhealth.com) and has published numerous articles in Project Sugar's Teaching for Health Series.



David A. Fisher

■ **Rohan D. Jeremiah**, PhD, MPH, assistant professor of community health sciences, was a featured research panelist at the 2014 Caribbean Conference on Domestic Violence and Gender Equality (CDVE) in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

■ **Memoona Hasnain**, MD, MHPE, (PhD '01) published an article in the Journal of Women's Health titled: *Breast Cancer Screening Practices Among First-Generation Immigrant Muslim Women*.



Memoona Hasnain

■ **Diane Lauderdale** (PhD '96) has been elected President to the Executive Board of the Society for Epidemiologic Research.

■ **Mikita Lee**, a junior in the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health Program, presented her research project at the UIC Summer Research Opportunities Program Annual Research Symposium. Her project, titled *Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative in Rural Illinois: Success and Barriers with Implementation of Baby-Friendly Policies*, was mentored by Dr. Karen Peters, clinical assistant professor of community health sciences.

Tell us what you're up to!  
Email your news to  
[TellSPH@uic.edu](mailto:TellSPH@uic.edu).

■ **Cammeo Mauntel-Medici** (MPH '13) is currently working at the UIC College of Medicine as the project manager for Project HEAL (HIV Testing, Education, Awareness, Linkage to Care).

■ **Stephanie Moore**, a senior in the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health Program, presented her research project at the UIC Summer Research Opportunities Program Annual Research Symposium. Her project, titled *An Ecological Analysis on the Spatial Correlations between Female Headed Families Living Below Poverty and Educational Attainment in Englewood*, was mentored by Dr. Richard Barrett, professor emeritus of sociology.

■ **Susan M. Moran** (MPH '95) was appointed as Senior Director of the Public Health Administration by the Michigan Department of Community Health.

■ **Peter Orris**, MD, MPH, FACP, FACOEM, adjunct professor of environmental and occupational health sciences, received the 2014 Environmental Health Hero Award, the highest honor bestowed by Health Care Without Harm.

■ **John Quinn** (MPH '07) has been working throughout the East of Ukraine performing a medical assessment for the Ministry of Health and doing training in Combat Life Saver (CLS) with Individual First Aid Kits (IFAKs) with Patriot Defense.

■ **Jesus Ramirez-Valles**, PhD, MPH, director of the division of community health sciences and professor, received the 2014 Health Award from Health & Medicine Policy Research Group for piloting research projects on a variety of topics ranging from reproductive health to HIV prevention and economic development for women, youth, and gay male populations.

■ **Clarita Santos** (MPH '96) was recognized by the Illinois Department of Public Health and named "Local Public Health Champion" for her contributions to health justice and for bringing visibility to underserved Asian immigrant and refugee communities in Illinois.

■ **Margaret Sietsema**, PhD candidate in environmental and occupational health sciences, won the 2014 International Society for Respiratory Protection Arthur Johnson Young Researcher Award.

■ **Julie A. Sullivan** (MPH '07) became an associate with the firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck in the corporate and business department.

■ **Daniel Swartzman**, JD, (MPH '78) professor emeritus, received the 2014 Health Award from Health & Medicine Policy Research Group. He was recognized for his decades of mentorship and scholarship at UIC where he designed and taught a "social ethics in public health" course.

■ **Susanna Visser**, (DrPH '14), (MS '01) presented a report at the Georgia Mental Health Forum in Atlanta on the diagnosis and medication for ADHD in young children. Her work was featured in the *New York Times*.

## Alumni Board Welcomes New President and Recent Graduates

THROUGHOUT THE PAST 10 YEARS THE Alumni Board of the UIC School of Public Health has grown and become more influential on school practices and policies. Alumni from all divisions and programs comprise the board and they play a vital role in the growth and advancement of the UIC School of Public Health. In July 2014, Tracie Smith (MPH '03), senior epidemiologist at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, became the new President. "The recent growth of the board coupled with increased alumni involvement in the last several years greatly influenced my decision to accept the position as President. It is a very exciting time in the board's history and I feel privileged to be part of it," Ms. Smith said. "On behalf of the entire Board, we'd like to thank Steve Thompson (PhD '00) for his years of service as President." Dr. Thompson will continue to serve as Immediate Past President.

The board is comprised of twelve Chicago-based and four regional (Atlanta and New York) alumni leaders that cut across all sectors of the public health field. The board's mission is to support and advance the UIC School of Public Health and the University of Illinois at Chicago, while remaining aligned with the school's mission to service the social good, improve population health, improve community preparedness and national security, and ensure patient care and safety. The board does this by providing engagement opportunities connecting alumni to



Alumni Board President, Tracie Smith (MPH '03) and Immediate Past President, Dr. Stephen Thompson (PhD '00)

students and alumni to alumni, and by participation in school planning efforts, fundraising and curriculum evaluation.

One such engagement opportunity is the creation of the Alumni Learning Series, a lecture series on current topics in public health, is among the board's more recent endeavors. In 2012, the board launched its first lecture on the school's research on HIV/Aids and now the school hosts two per year. "It's a great opportunity for Alumni to return to the school to hear different perspectives on the featured topic and engage in thoughtful discussion during the Q&A portion," says Ms. Smith. Every Alumni Learning Series is recorded and available on the UIC School of Public Health website. Previous topics have included alumni working in global health and faculty research on violence prevention.



Ashley Arnold (MPH '13) and Swetha Ramanathan (MPH '13)

Another exciting venture the board has taken on has been to increase participation of students who have graduated within the last ten years. In 2014, the Recent Graduate Board (RGB) was formed. The RGB is led by co-chairs Swetha Ramanathan (MPH '13) and Ashley Arnold (MPH '13). "The idea of assisting recent graduates with building their professional networks was appealing to

me," says Ms. Arnold. "I felt the opportunity was a great way to make a contribution in the first few years after MPH completion." Over the summer the RGB successfully planned the first annual Alumni Picnic, which brought out more than fifty alumni and their families. "The strength of the Recent Graduate Board is that we can engage recent alumni by initiating new event ideas that could help retention

and engagement of recent alumni," added Ms. Ramanathan. "By establishing, not a network, but a family of UIC School of Public Health alumni, I believe that we can advance the school's mission with the belief that teaching, research, and service is not just important to the school, but to recent alumni as well."

In addition to engaging alumni by hosting diverse events throughout the year, the current Alumni Board has been showing their support of the school by not only donating their time and talent, but also their treasure. Last year every member of the board donated and many donated at the Founder's Circle level, which are individual gifts of \$500 or more (see page 16). "This year we have decided to take fundraising a step further and established an Alumni Board Scholarship," Ms. Smith explains. "Our goal is to help the next generation of public health students get a great start to their careers. We're thrilled to be supporting Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf's vision of having all UIC School of Public Health students receive some type of financial support from the school!"

Ms. Smith says that she looks forward to leading the Alumni Board and serving the alumni in the next couple of years. "There are so many exciting events and initiatives underway and I hope to meet as many alumni as I can." Visit the school's website at [www.publichealth.uic.edu/alumni](http://www.publichealth.uic.edu/alumni) for more information about how alumni can engage with the school. ■

## Alumna Attends Meeting on HIV at the White House

In June, alumna Dr. Shanell L. McGoy (MPH '03) attended the invitation-only Meeting on HIV in the Southern United States at The White House. The meeting, hosted by the new Office of National AIDS Policy Director, was an effort to highlight the geographic disparities of HIV in the South. The Southern region of the United States accounts for 37 percent of the country's population. Yet, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the region accounts for 49 percent of new HIV and AIDS diagnoses.

In her role as Director of HIV/STD for the Tennessee Department of Health, Dr. McGoy provides leadership and direction on a more than \$40 million investment in state and federal resources to support a comprehensive service delivery system via epidemiology and surveillance, housing, care and treatment, and contract administration.

Earning a degree in public health combined her interest

in exploring an interdisciplinary approach to improving the quality of life for all people. Dr. McGoy credits the support and guidance she received from faculty and staff for her success at the UIC School of Public Health. The Health Careers Opportunity Program, now called the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, "provided me with the extra support I needed to navigate graduate school as an underrepresented minority student." Dr. McGoy says mentors, such as Shaffdeen Amuwo, Selena Smith and Michele Kelley, took an interest in her academic success, personal growth, and career development.

After graduating from the UIC School of Public Health, Dr. McGoy was employed for a number of years at the local, state, and federal levels of government before accepting the position with the Tennessee Department of Health. "My professional experience has mostly been in HIV/AIDS. From providing HIV prevention messages to youth in Peoria, Illinois, to ascertaining behavioral risk factors from persons who inject drugs in Detroit, to exploring policy implications for achieving racial/ethnic equity in treatment among people living with HIV/AIDS in the South." She believes that a degree in public health has allowed her to make "a tiny contribution to improving life for not only people living with HIV/AIDS, but all people. Most rewarding for her is mentoring the next generation of public health professionals. "I am excited to see what they will accomplish!" ■



# ALUMNI MAKING A DIFFERENCE: PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

People who are drawn to the field of public health often possess the passion, commitment and leadership skills to make the world a healthier place. It's no surprise then that many professionals take their commitment to public health one step further by becoming involved in professional societies. "It is a testament to the outstanding talent, experience and hard work of our alumni that so many of them rise to leadership positions in professional organizations," says Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf. "It is wonderful that they understand it is part of their professional responsibility to give back as much as possible." Below are three such alumni who serve as exemplary role models for current students and future generations of professionals.

## Diane S. Lauderdale, PhD '96

"Being active in a national organization is a fantastic opportunity to figure out how to do better work and to raise the profile of your organization," says Diane S. Lauderdale (PhD '96), who became President Elect of the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) this past summer. In one year, she will become the organization's new President where she plans to continue to expand SER's contributions to scholarship and education, make sure the annual meetings remain valuable to diverse epidemiologists in the face of increased specialization, and maintain the longstanding sponsorship of the *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

Dr. Lauderdale, who currently serves as Professor and Chair of the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Chicago, says that public health was a second career for her. As her two children grew, she knew it might be her last chance to pursue a career that both seemed more worthwhile and challenging than what she had been doing. "For ten years I had been following the AIDS epidemic closely, through the medical journals my husband received, and because of friends who were ill. I decided epidemiology was the most important field I could go into."

She first became a member of SER when she was a graduate student at UIC's School of Public Health. She first attended the annual meeting as an opportunity to present some of her dissertation research, but discovered unanticipated benefits. "The annual meeting was especially valuable in building a network of colleagues around the country because I did not come from a large academic program. UIC was a relatively small and then I went on to an even smaller department at the University of Chicago."

Dr. Lauderdale has had the opportunity to work with, and lead, teams of researchers from diverse fields to design and carry out projects to elucidate how social factors and behavior affect risk of disease. Last year, when she became Chair of her department, she successfully changed its name from the uninformative "Health Studies" to "Public Health Sciences." Because public health fields are still relatively new to the University of Chicago, she is focused on building a stronger interdisciplinary department and designing new graduate programs.



Diane S. Lauderdale

Dr. Lauderdale says she would encourage other public health professionals to become involved in a professional organization because it "helps one develop a balanced perspective on challenges and successes. I have found that the connections I have with epidemiologists around the country are extremely valuable when questions come up about research or education and there is no local expert."

## Anders Abelmann, PhD '10

As the Supervising Health Scientist with Cardno ChemRisk, Anders Abelmann (PhD '10) specializes in consulting on health and environmental risk associated with complex exposures involving chemicals, pharmaceuticals or radionuclides in a variety of media and environments. "My work mainly involves the fields of industrial hygiene and risk assessment, as it relates to occupational exposures," Dr. Abelmann explains. He is also the Regional Unit Manager for the Chicago office, where he oversees day-to-day operations and manages a staff of scientists.

Like Dr. Lauderdale, Dr. Abelmann became involved in a professional organization when he was a student at the UIC School of Public Health. His involvement with the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) began in 2006. "The Chicago Local Section is one of the more active sections in the country and have always done a good job of engaging students in their activities," he says. Today, Dr. Abelmann serves as a member of its Board of Directors and has done so since 2010. His responsibilities include strategic and event planning. And, true to most volunteer

positions, he is not afraid to roll up his sleeves to help the organization. "I am also the webmaster in charge of website updates and all communications with our membership."

As an engineering student, he says he always had an interest in public health, but it became more concrete when he was an exchange student in the Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering program at UIC. After taking the Safety Engineering course taught by Dr. Steve Lacey, he found that his engineering background was a good skill set to have as an industrial hygienist and safety professional. One of his favorite things about public health, both through school and as a working professional, is the variety of work and depth of knowledge gained. A degree in public health, he says, "has prepared me well for my line of work, in which I typically do different things every single day."

"Being in a leadership role in a professional organization is incredibly rewarding," he says. "I get to network with like-minded individuals and help drive my field of work forward." Dr. Abelmann says that the best way to get started is to become involved in student organizations, and to strive to assume responsibilities and strategic (board) positions. "That will not only position you well to transition to membership in professional organizations, but also to leadership roles – because you already know something about how it is done."

## Daniel Swartzman, MPH '78

After serving for thirty-six years as a member of the UIC School of Public Health faculty, Daniel Swartzman, JD, (MPH '78), retired from the University this fall. "He leaves an indelible mark on the fabric of our school," says Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf. In his class on Social Ethics, a course he developed, Mr. Swartzman challenged his students to think, to care and to act. He is currently writing a book on social ethics and policy-making. He also pioneered the school's efforts at online teaching many years ago. The next chapter in his life includes consulting with educational programs and public health organizations. His expertise is on strategic thinking, program development and quality management.



Anders Abelmann

"Ethics is one of my main foci," Mr. Swartzman explains, and this is why he was named Chair-elect of the American Public Health Association (APHA)'s Ethics Section. The Section provides opportunities to connect and collaborate with academics, public health practitioners, and students from a wide variety of disciplines who are committed to advancing public health ethics in practice, teaching and research. "It seemed like an excellent way to get involved with colleagues around the country who are similarly interested."

Most people in the field of public health think that 'public health ethics' deals with the ethical implications of conducting public health research. For decades, this was a very important part of the ethical practice: deciding what were appropriate or inappropriate research designs, how to protect the safety and rights of human subjects, how to gain truly informed consent, etc. "More recently, the growing field of organizational ethics has been applied to the work done by public health agencies and organization. The field is examining how we balance political pressures with scarce resources, how we maintain our integrity and preserve the respect of our community partners, and how we operate with transparency, while maintaining the responsibility to preserve the privacy of individuals and populations." Mr. Swartzman would like the Ethics Section to continue its focus on research ethics, while expanding their attention on social and organizational ethics.

In addition to his leadership role with APHA, Mr. Swartzman is serving as the Chair for the Learning Futures Forum of the Association for Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH).



Daniel Swartzman

This group consists of eighty teachers at accredited schools and programs who are investigating new ways to teach through expanded use of technology. This year, the Forum will be looking at the tensions between the economics and the quality of online education. "I have been teaching online for sixteen years. It is a challenging task, but just as rewarding as on-campus teaching, only in different ways." Again, he was looking for colleagues with which to share ideas and he felt his experience as both a practitioner and an academic would help him in these roles. "We reach out to leaders in our field from around the country, and the synergy from those joint efforts magnifies our chances to succeed in protecting the public's health." ■

**FOUNDERS CIRCLE AND LEGACY SOCIETY RECEPTION**



The Annual Founders Circle and Legacy Society Reception was held at the International Museum of Surgical Science on September 23, 2014. More than fifty guests joined other generous supporters of the school and senior UIC SPH administrators and faculty for a “state of the school” and museum tour. Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf gave an exclusive update on the school’s achievements from this past year and plans for the coming year.

**ALUMNI RECEPTION IN PHOENIX**



Alumni from the school's Maternal and Child Health Program attended a special reception at the CityMatCH and MCH Epidemiology Conference in Phoenix on September 17, 2014.

**HEALTHY SPIRITS**



Alumni gathered at Goose Island Brew Pub on September 17, 2014.

**Engage: 2014-15 Events**

**Healthy Spirits**

February 12, 2015  
5:30 – 8:00 pm  
Elephant and Castle  
185 N. Wabash Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60601

**Alumni Learning Series**

March 4, 2015  
6:00 – 7:30 pm  
UIC School of Public Health  
1603 W. Taylor Street  
Chicago, IL 60612

**Annual Alumni Reunion**

April 9, 2015  
6:00 – 10:00 pm  
More information to come!

**Healthy Spirits**

May 14, 2015  
5:30 – 8:00 pm  
Plymouth Rooftop Bar  
325 S. Plymouth Court  
Chicago, IL 60604

For more information on all of these events, visit [publichealth.uic.edu/alumni](http://publichealth.uic.edu/alumni).

**EVENT**

All UIC SPH alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends, as well as Illinois public health professionals are welcome to join us for an evening in the New Orleans historic warehouse district. Please feel free to invite colleagues, classmates and partners. Appetizers will be provided.



**Monday, November 17, 2014**

**The Chicory  
610 S. Peters Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130**

**5:30 pm – 9:00 pm**

**DETAILS**

Please RSVP at:  
<https://sphapha2014.eventbrite.com>

Co-Sponsored by:



**INFO**

**ALUMNI LEARNING SERIES**



Members of the UIC School of Public Health alumni board join Dr. Gary Slutkin, Founder and Executive Director of Cure Violence, at a reception prior to his lecture on October 22, 2014. Dr. Slutkin was invited to discuss the science guiding the work of Cure Violence, including the organization's local and global initiatives.



Rebecca Levin (MPH '02), Strategic Director of the Injury Prevention and Research Center at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, moderated the Q&A session with Dr. Slutkin.

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