

**SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH**



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Healthviews

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**CENTER FOR HEALTHY WORK:
IMPROVING HEALTH BY ADDRESSING
PRECARIOUS WORK**



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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



AT LEFT Photo taken by Mary Otoo, MPH candidate in epidemiology and biostatistics, in Mole National Park, Larabanga, Ghana. A herd of elephants visited a pond to play and cool down their body temperatures. Ms. Otoo was in Ghana as a Unite for Sight Global Impact Fellow investigating maternal perceptions of child eye health.

Healthviews

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It's never easy to write a letter that conveys sad news. But when the sad news is joined with exciting new opportunities, it makes it a little easier. As many of you have heard, this will be the last time I write the Dean's Desk letter for *Healthviews* magazine. After serving as the dean since 2008, it is with mixed emotions that I share the news that my tenure will conclude in January 2017.

When my wife Sherry and I first came to UIC, we knew that we would find a special group of people with similar perspectives and passions about what academic public health could be. We both have grown to love this school and university and feel that it has become like a second family to us.

In our time here, the school has grown, improved and achieved great things. However, in order to sustain and build on this progress, I believe that it is time for a change in leadership. With the continued great work of our faculty, staff, students, alumni, supporters, and partners, a new dean will bring a fresh perspective and ideas that will insure our upward trajectory and even greater impact on the health of the populations that we serve.

I am proud of all that the school has been able to accomplish during the past nine years. UIC SPH has expanded existing programs and launched vital new academic, research and service programs. Together, we've been able to establish an innovative undergraduate program in public health, launch a new integrated core curriculum in the MPH program, and institute an online version of the DrPH in public health leadership for practicing professionals.

I'm particularly proud of our successful recruitment of many talented and outstanding new faculty, including a significant increase in underrepresented minority faculty, all of whom are making major contributions to the teaching, research and service efforts of the school. UIC School of Public Health now perennially ranks as UIC's highest college for research dollars per faculty member and is in the top ten nationally among schools of public health for this metric.

In addition, through the efforts of so many talented faculty, staff, students and friends of UIC SPH, the impact of the school on the health of the public in Chicago, across Illinois, nationally and around the world has grown. Relationships with local and state agencies have been strengthened; the school's acclaimed AIDS prevention programs in Chicago and in Africa and violence prevention program in many U.S. cities and several foreign countries have expanded significantly; a new Coordinating Center for Public Health Practice was established; the Prevention Research Centers, the Illinois Education and Research Center, and Centers of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health and Total Worker Health were funded or re-funded; and the school's Global Health Programs have grown tremendously to involve over 70 partners in 44 countries. This is just a small sample of the many exciting examples of the school's growing success and impact.

It is of course extremely difficult to leave such a wonderful organization and group of people, but personal considerations have factored heavily in this decision, and Sherry and I have the opportunity now to move back to the east coast to be closer to our other family. We will both be joining the faculty at Drexel University where I will become the inaugural Dean of the School of Biomedical Engineering Science and Health Systems and Sherry will join the faculty of the Dornsife School of Public Health. An interim dean for the UIC School of Public Health will be named soon and a national search for my replacement will take place to ensure a smooth transition.

We hope you'll enjoy reading this issue of *Healthviews* magazine and that you'll join us in the sense of pride we feel about all that the UIC SPH community has been able to, and continues to, accomplish. This year in particular the school is celebrating two milestones: the 10 year anniversary of our Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) program and the 10th anniversary of the Douglas Passaro Global Horizons Scholarship. You'll be able to read about both programs and many other accomplishments in this issue.

We know that the new dean will be welcomed with open arms and minds, just as we were. Sherry and I look forward to remaining members of the UIC SPH family and loyal and passionate supporters of the school and its mission.

Wishing you good health,

Paul Brandt-Rauf

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



Paul and Sherry Brandt-Rauf

With a new President in the White House, how would you like to see public health discussed on the national stage? Members of the UIC SPH community weigh in....



I would like to be sure to see that the Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers (FQHC's) that serve more than 22 Million patients remain intact no matter who comes into office. Over the past 20 years, they have received bipartisan support and I hope this remains the case, because these FQHC's provide primary healthcare services for the poor throughout the country.

RAJESH PARIKH, MD, MPH '95
VICE PRESIDENT OF
CLINICAL SERVICES &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
ILLINOIS PRIMARY HEALTH
CARE ASSOCIATION



In light of the upcoming elections, on a national level I hope that the new administration looks at our aging population. With Medicare making up 30-50% of most hospitals' revenues and an increased number of eligible enrollees, the funding of Medicare should be addressed. On an international scale, with the recent events related to Zika, a goal for a stronger international emergency preparedness plan should be addressed. Topics such as infection control and hospital preparedness should be addressed at both a national and international level.

NAZANIN TONDRABI, JD, MPH '14,
LHRM ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
REGULATORY COMPLIANCE
UHEALTH, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
HEALTH SYSTEM



The U.S. is one of the most inequitable countries in terms of access to care and health outcomes. We have failed to protect the right to health for the most vulnerable individuals and communities, so it is time to step back and discuss health as a human right.

JENNY GUADAMUZ,
PHD CANDIDATE



Given the recent situation in Flint, MI, as well as the pipeline that burst in the Southwest, I believe we need a leader who recognizes that water quality and access to clean water is a matter of public health for not only our country, but our world. Additionally, treating violence in the U.S. and abroad with a public health approach needs to be more widely accepted and implemented.

ALEXANDRIA WILLIS, MPH '11
ANALYTIC ASSOCIATE
TRUVEN HEALTH ANALYTICS



We need to do more as a country to provide adequate health care and health prevention services to underserved communities, especially to low income women and children. Many people do not have access to the care and services that they need, and we see the results in much higher rates of adverse birth outcomes including infant mortality rates. While we know what to do to prevent these types of outcomes, it might take a continued commitment from the president to see changes that positively affect these communities.

JAIME C. SLAUGHTER-ACEY, PHD '10,
MPH '02 ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DOCTORAL NURSING DEPARTMENT
EPIDEMIOLOGY & BIOSTATISTICS
DREXEL UNIVERSITY



I expect to see all conversations set using an equity, diversity, and inclusion framework. This is a historic time where I am intentionally addressing privilege and a steadfast supporter of social justice until the most oppressed and marginalized in our communities are liberated. I expect the same from the national and local stage. Now is the time to be bold.

FELIPE TENDICK MATESANZ,
MS '13 CO-LEADER, COMMUNITY
ORGANIZING AND ENGAGEMENT
COMMITTEE COLLABORATIVE FOR
HEALTH EQUITY COOK COUNTY

Devotion to Students, Commitment to Diversity is the Legacy of Dean Brant-Rauf

As Paul Brandt-Rauf, DrPH, MD, ScD, prepares to leave the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health after nine years, he's reflecting on his vision for the school as well as his life's purpose, and setting his sights on new adventures. He spoke quite highly of the school's students, faculty, staff and supporters he has come to know and care deeply about while here in Chicago, as well as the programs that have come together under his leadership. He is proud to say that during his tenure, he worked with students, faculty, staff and supporters, to make UIC SPH - already a great place - "an even better place."



Dr. Brandt-Rauf is moving back east, where he grew up, to be closer to family and where he will take on the role of inaugural dean of an interdisciplinary school of biomedical engineering science and health systems at Drexel University. Tracie Smith (MPH '03), the immediate past president of the UIC SPH Alumni Board, said Dr. Brandt-Rauf will be greatly missed. "He's just one of the most genuine people I've ever met," Ms. Smith said. "He cares about the world and Chicago and his students."

Ms. Smith, who works as director of population health analytics at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, worked closely with Dr. Brandt-Rauf while serving on the alumni board since 2010. She attributes his success to his sincerity and enthusiasm, saying it was easy for others to see how much he truly cared about public health and his students. "He also is crazy smart, yet down to earth, and has a great sense of humor," she said with a laugh. "I think it's going to be really hard to fill his shoes."

In following much of the same approach while at UIC SPH, his role at Drexel University will blend together Dr. Brandt-Rauf's multiple fields of expertise under one umbrella - engineering, medicine and public health. He has earned doctoral degrees from Columbia University in each of these fields. His vision is to use all of these disciplines to show students how to apply them in the real world to treat and prevent illness and disease, and find solutions to ward off health crises rather than have a "wait 'til it's broken and fix it" approach.

Dr. Brandt-Rauf's life passion is not only to prevent disease and promote health through addressing the root causes of illness, including such basics as clean drinking water, proper sanitation and housing -- but is also to ensure students are leaving institutions with the proper knowledge to continue this work. Students not only need to be given their knowledge, but must also be taught how to use that knowledge wisely, he said. The fact that through public health you can change millions of lives is a "dramatic thing," he said, but there is a shortage of people who are trained on how to do that.

Like himself, he wants students to leave academic institutions with a drive and an understanding of how to make the world safer and healthier. "My goal is to leave the world a better place than I found it," he said. "One of our most neglected resources is our human potential. We waste a lot of talent. It's a shame. If everyone were as healthy -- physically, mentally, spiritually -- as they could be, wouldn't the world be a better place? We'd be much better off. You are not going to achieve all that you can if you are not healthy. Our most valuable resources are our future human resources."

He believes all people, not just the wealthy, should have access to higher education, which is why he takes pride in successful fundraising efforts, especially for scholarships, while at UIC SPH and hopes that this area continues to grow. He wants to see that "the next generation gets the best opportunities to be all they can be."

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The dean grew up in a middle class family with parents who instilled in him a love of knowledge, and a belief that you could use that knowledge to make the world a better place. However, as a young man, he realized he “was pretty fortunate and I should be helping people who were not as fortunate. The more somebody has, the more they should give back.”

People shouldn’t have to make career choices based on whether or not they can afford higher education, he said, and this is why he believes fundraising is key to any institution. His dedication to this belief resulted in the school’s endowment tripling between 2008 and 2016. “We have to invest in this generation,” he said, and hopes that fundraising for student support at UIC SPH remains a priority after he leaves.

Stephen Thompson (PhD ‘00), who has been a member of the Alumni Board since 2008 and served as President from 2011 – 2014, said from the beginning of Dr. Brandt-Rauf’s deanship he recognized the significance in reaching out to the more than 4,000 alumni for donations in light of decreasing state and federal money supporting the school. “He saw the alumni as an integral part of the school’s functioning as they inform the programs and faculty on what type of work is being done out in the world,” Dr. Thompson said. “He clearly understood that the school’s function didn’t stop with the graduation of its students. He worked hard to keep the alumni engaged in the life of the school, both as role models and a source of funding that would help to cover the reduction in governmental funds.”

Dr. Thompson, who is a member of the school’s Legacy Society, added that Dr. Brandt-Rauf has been successful in hiring the right people in the school’s development office. “They have been extraordinarily successful in increasing both the number and size of donations,” Dr. Thompson said. “Both the Founder’s Circle and Legacy Society were formed under this Dean’s tenure. He has traveled widely to meet with alumni and donors across

the country to ensure that the school stayed in touch, and that alumni were continually informed of the school’s efforts to remain a force in the field of public health.”

In addition to his successful fundraising efforts, Dr. Brandt-Rauf is proud of the work done to increase the diversity in faculty and students, bringing more underrepresented minorities into the school. “There are minority and disadvantaged communities who are not well represented in public health,” he said. There is a need to have opportunities in place to help people from those underserved communities obtain a higher education and find jobs in public health to help people back in their communities.”

“If everyone were as healthy -- physically, mentally, spiritually -- as they could be, wouldn’t the world be a better place?”

Sylvia Furner, (PhD ‘87), (MPH ‘85), associate professor emerita and former interim dean and senior associate dean, agrees that increasing student and faculty diversity has been an area of success for Dr. Brandt-Rauf. Diversity is highly important in public health because public health itself is a discipline focusing on all parts of the population. “We want to have more people of color studying, involved in public health,” Dr. Furner said. “We want all communities to feel they are represented by public health and their needs are met. This is critical if we are ever to achieve health equity.”

Dr. Furner commented that Dr. Brandt-Rauf was hired for his areas of expertise in public health and global public health, as well as his research background in environmental and occupational health sciences. She said since his time with the school, Dr. Brandt-Rauf has been successful at implementing and expanding many areas. One such area is the online doctorate of public health program (DrPH). This program allows the school to train working professionals around the world to become leaders in their field.

Another significant accomplishment is that the school integrated the Masters of Public Health (MPH) academic core coursework across disciplines. “Public health education and curriculum are changing and becoming ever more interdisciplinary,” Dr. Furner said. “So the integration just fits perfectly within where it’s going. It is more integrated across disciplines in terms of how students are taught and how people who work in public health interact. We don’t all sit in offices by ourselves; we work across disciplines to solve health problems.”

He also led the implementation of the Bachelor of Arts in public health. Dr. Furner said this is “very important” because it allows more undergraduate students who have wanted an education in public health to do so. “Under his leadership we have designed and successfully enrolled students in this program,” she said, adding the class began small with just about 15 students and today there are about 70 enrolled.

Lee Francis, MD, (MPH ‘00), president and CEO of Erie Family Health Center in Chicago, is a volunteer advisor who currently serves as Chair of the Executive Advisory Board, a board that Dr. Brandt-Rauf created. He said the

dean established the board out of a desire to build diversity. “He believed that the school should diversify its reach to all of Illinois and not just geographically, but he believed the school should reach out to all the different constituencies impacted by public health.” Under Brandt-Rauf’s tenure, the school has grown its relationships to now include more than 160 city and state partnerships with public health and not for profit organizations, as well as 70 international partnerships with global organizations in more than 44 countries.

In parting, Dr. Brandt-Rauf said he feels that he is leaving the school in a better place, and humbly adds he would like to think he’s made a contribution to that. He hopes UIC SPH continues to turn out students from diverse backgrounds who are able to go out into the “real world” and use the knowledge they have been given for the benefit of all. “The idea is to generate individuals who are creative problem solvers, critical thinkers, independent life-long learners and responsible global citizens committed to using their knowledge in the pursuit of social good and the service of others.” ●

UIC SPH’s endowment has tripled since 2008, positioning the school for greater financial long-term security.

UIC SPH continues its commitment to diversity by increasing the number of underrepresented students from 21% to 27% and the number of underrepresented faculty from 5% to 11% since 2008.

Coordinating Center for Public Health Practice is established to maintain, improve and develop strategic coordination between practice and academic communities.

Highlights of Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf’s Tenure 2008 – 2017

Paul Brandt-Rauf joins UIC SPH as its sixth Dean.

Peace Corps Master’s International Program is launched to provide graduate students with unique volunteer service around the globe.

Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) program in leadership begins offering a fully online program for practicing professionals.



Bachelor of Arts program accepts its first class of undergraduate students.

An Integrated core curriculum in the Master of Public Health program launched with the goal of re-designing the program to better prepare students for entering the field of public health.

UIC SPH celebrates its 40th anniversary with a gala at the Field Museum. The keynote speaker was Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee and more than 700 alumni and friends were in attendance.



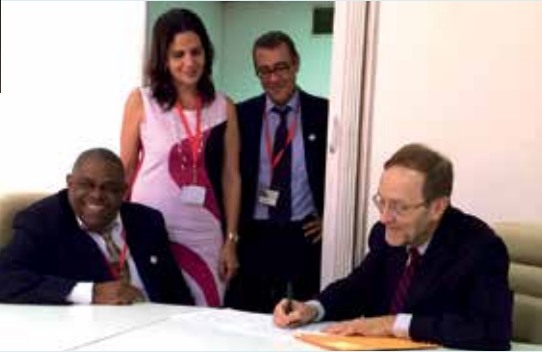
Center of Excellence for Healthy Work is established to focus on improving the health of people in low-wage, precarious employment.



Illinois Prevention Research Center is funded to engage in prevention research to reduce chronic disease risk and health disparities.

First endowed professorship is established in Global Health, with two more established the following year in Epidemiology and Gerontology.

UIC SPH is reaccredited for a full seven years and remains the only fully accredited school of public health in Illinois.



Formalized collaboration with the National School of Public Health of Cuba, which will offer opportunities for the Global Health Program to work in Cuba and Cuban colleagues to come to UIC SPH.

Master of Healthcare Administration: 10 Years of Educating Leaders

As the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health celebrates a decade of graduating Master's in Healthcare Administration (MHA) students, the first three MHA Program Directors reflect on its success and future direction.

The MHA program is a two-year graduate program designed for students who desire to assume leadership roles within the healthcare industry. These students can be found in management positions in a wide range of healthcare organizations such as acute care hospitals, medical group and physician practices, health insurance, management consulting and long term care providers.

The program is similar to an MBA program but is focused on how business disciplines are applied within the healthcare sector. Students take courses in leadership, human resources, finance, marketing and strategic planning.

Benn Greenspan, PhD, MPH, was the founder and first director of the program. When the school became aware that Dr. Greenspan would be retiring from Sinai Health System after nearly 30 years, they recruited him to develop the MHA program. He was imminently qualified for this role as he spent much of his career working for Sinai as a healthcare administrator improving access and quality to healthcare services for the medically underserved in Chicago.

While working at Sinai, Dr. Greenspan earned his doctorate in public health from UIC SPH and occasionally taught classes there. So when asked to lead the new degree program, it was a natural transition. "I could have taught at other schools but my belief is that the delivery system of healthcare has strayed too far away from public health concept," he said.

Sinai had a strong focus on epidemiology, community outreach service and housing redevelopment and Dr. Greenspan wanted to foster this holistic approach in young students planning to serve future patients and families. "Sinai had a concept of healthcare that was broader than most of the industry and my interest was precisely to do that kind of work and to encourage other people in the profession," he said.

Dr. Greenspan accepted the offer to develop the program, which began with 13 students in the first year. He felt it was important to instill in students an understanding of how approaching healthcare delivery from a public health perspective improved the overall care of patients. He wanted students graduating from the MHA program to have the knowledge and skill set to go out and be successful in delivering healthcare within the framework of public health practice. He said providing healthcare within the context of public health "is not traditional medicine ... not what hospitals or doctors get paid to do ... but we'd be better off if they did."

The early stages of building the new graduate program began with a very specific approach, which involved deliberately utilizing adjunct faculty, rather than full-time faculty, as the primary instructors in the program. Dr. Greenspan preferred using adjunct faculty who were currently working in the health field who could bring real life healthcare experience to the students while teaching basic management concepts. "So the people we were educating and training for the job would receive a fuller understanding of what it actually means to do the job," he said.

That arrangement also opened the door for many students to benefit from a very extensive preceptorship program. Relationships developed through the preceptorships have introduced students to higher levels within organizations and helped to develop professional relationships with company executives. Such relationships have been successful in creating an intimacy between students and executives, allowing for candid conversations and even providing real-life opportunities to show what it is like to fail.

Dr. Greenspan said the goal for the MHA was to recruit students from underrepresented groups. "It was readily apparent to me that the management of our healthcare system has a problem of not being representative of the patient population being served or the



Benn Greenspan and John DeNardo pose with the Class of 2013 MHA graduates.

workforce that is providing the care to these patients." He wanted to see more minorities moving up the corporate ladder and into executive positions. "We have had some extraordinary students. Some of whom went on to become outstanding leaders and entrepreneurs. I'd like to think we had a hand in preparing them to be professionals and succeed, but they did it themselves."

Dr. Greenspan left UIC in 2014, with 60 students enrolled in the program. The program has graduated students who have developed the expertise necessary to pursue careers in healthcare management, planning and consulting. "I am satisfied that the MHA program did what we thought it would do for the first ten years," Dr. Greenspan said. "The goal in the first five years was that we would develop 50 local professionals from our program. In the next five years, that would go up to 150."

John DeNardo, MPH, taught in the MHA program for nine years as an adjunct faculty instructor before succeeding Dr. Greenspan as director of the program in 2012. Referring to Dr. Greenspan as the "visionary who conceived of, developed and implemented" the program, Mr. DeNardo said he was very fortunate to have worked with him and under his leadership.

Much like Dr. Greenspan, Mr. DeNardo agreed to become the program director after serving as the President and CEO of the University of Illinois Hospital for 12 years. Under his leadership, the MHA program expanded in 2015 to include an Executive Master of Healthcare Administration (EMHA) degree. The EMHA program was developed for physicians and senior level executives who desire to move into leadership roles within their organizations. It provides physicians and other healthcare leaders with a clinical degree and the management acumen to move into leadership positions with the business knowledge to assume progressively responsible roles in their organizations. The first EMHA class will graduate in December 2016.

In the Spring of 2016, both the MHA and EMHA programs achieved a goal of receiving the maximum seven years of reaccreditation with the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME), the gold standard for master's degrees in healthcare administration. Mr. DeNardo is proud to see the programs continue to recruit talented faculty and grow "our enrollment by making our MHA program a first-tier choice for prospective students."

Mr. DeNardo said the MHA and EMHA programs are important because in this "ever-changing and complex world of healthcare delivery" the degree provides students with an essential foundation to be successful with the healthcare sector. He believes the CAHME accreditation raised the awareness of our program nationally and was instrumental in attracting highly qualified students from across the country. "Our students learn from leaders who are confronting the challenges of the complex healthcare delivery system," he said. "They bring a rich repertoire of problems and their solutions to the classroom." Individuals interested in healthcare administration need to possess strong oral and written communication, analytical and critical thinking skills," Mr. DeNardo said. "They must be comfortable working in situations which are complex and rapidly changing. But most of all, they must possess the sense of duty, responsibility and compassion that goes with managing and leading organizations that care for people at some of their most vulnerable moments."

"Our students learn from leaders who are confronting the challenges of the complex healthcare delivery system. They bring a rich repertoire of problems and their solutions to the classroom"

In May 2016, Larry Wrobel, DHA, who had a successful career as a healthcare executive and had been teaching in the program for the past four years, became the program's third director. "The healthcare industry is one of the most complex in the world and requires a blend

of extensive management knowledge of the healthcare environment and relationship development skills to succeed," Dr. Wrobel said. "A career in healthcare is not for the faint of heart and is extremely challenging in terms of providing patient populations with enhanced access to care, improved clinical outcomes and at a cost the nation can afford."



Larry Wrobel, second from left, at the annual MHA alumni reception in 2016.

Dr. Wrobel's vision is to expand the program's student enrollment, while enhancing the course curriculum to insure students are receiving the contemporary knowledge and training required in today's healthcare world. He'd also like to increase the program's contribution to research in the field of healthcare administration and develop an effective alumni relations program. "These are essential initiatives that when achieved will position the program for future success and obtain recognition as a top program throughout the country," he said.

Dr. Wrobel has indicated that in the last ten years, the MHA program has grown, matured and has become a highly sought after degree that positions students to realize their career aspirations. This achievement has come from the vision, support and hard work of the school's administration, faculty, alumni and students. "This outstanding level of commitment to excellence in healthcare education will insure that UIC SPH continues to make a positive contribution to training the future leaders of our healthcare system." ●

DIVISION OF
EPIDEMIOLOGY AND
BIostatISTICS

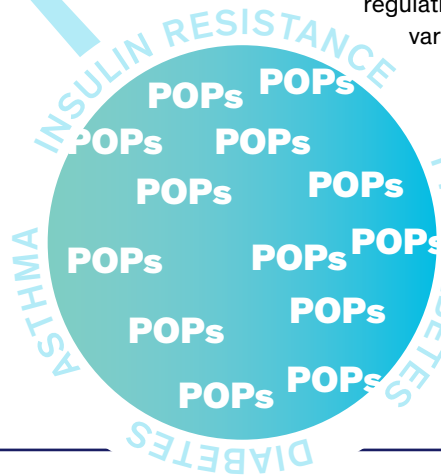
EXPLORING WHETHER EXPOSURE TO POLLUTANTS MAY CAUSE DIABETES

Dr. Victoria Persky, professor of epidemiology and biostatistics, is an internist epidemiologist whose areas of interest include asthma and endocrine effects of exposure to persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Her interest in asthma has spanned several decades. Her group was among the first to document the wide racial disparities in asthma morbidity and mortality in Chicago.

Dr. Persky's previous research on endocrine disruptors, with Dr. Mary Turyk, included hormone effects of exposure to POPs in employees exposed to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in a capacitor manufacturing plant and in adults with high consumption of Great Lakes fish. As an extension of that work she, along with Professors Turyk, Sally Freels, Noel Chavez, Terry Unterman and Martha Daviglius from UIC, and collaborators from other institutions, has recently been funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to examine the effects of POPs exposure on endogenous hormones and incidence of diabetes. The study, entitled "Persistent Organic Pollutants, Endogenous Hormones and Diabetes in Latinos," will build upon the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos (HCHS/SOL), the largest prospective study in the U.S. of Hispanic groups of diverse backgrounds.

The HCHS/SOL study is an ongoing cohort of 16,415 multiethnic Hispanics in Chicago, San Diego, New York and Miami. POPs, endogenous thyroid and steroid hormones, and inflammatory markers will be measured in baseline blood samples from 2,000-3,000 men and postmenopausal women age 45-74. Associations with subsequent development of diabetes, prediabetes and insulin resistance, will be determined at the six-year follow-up. Hormone and immune

pathways by which POPs may be affecting glucose regulation will be examined. There is wide variation in both diabetes and POPs exposures among Latinos which renders HCHS/SOL an ideal population to examine biologic pathways by which POPs could be affecting an increasingly prevalent and costly disease. Results could be important not only in identifying factors that cause diabetes, but also in designing appropriate intervention strategies.



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EXAMINING RACIAL INEQUALITIES IN HEALTH AND LONGEVITY

Dr. Uchechi Mitchell is an assistant professor of community health sciences who researches aging with UIC's Center for Research on Health and Aging. Her research aims to improve our understanding of the health and aging experiences of racial minorities and the determinants of health inequalities over the life course. Dr. Mitchell uses population-level data to investigate the physiological and psychosocial factors that contribute to racial inequalities in health and longevity.

Dr. Mitchell has examined racial and ethnic differences in systemic inflammation---a risk factor for multiple chronic diseases that is also associated with mortality. She found that older African Americans have higher levels of inflammation than whites and Latinos and that this disparity persists throughout midlife and old age. In her more recent work, Dr. Mitchell is investigating possible mechanisms that contribute to these disparities. One risk factor she currently examines is discrimination. Experiences of discrimination are associated with poor health, and African



Americans are more likely to report experiencing discrimination compared to other groups. Dr. Mitchell found that isolated but major forms of discrimination, such as being unfairly fired from a job, contribute to excess inflammation among older African Americans. This finding builds on existing research on the adverse health consequences of discrimination by showing how it can "get under the skin" to affect a biomarker known to be predictive of cardiovascular disease and mortality.

Recognizing that good health and positive aging are not mere reflections of physiological functioning or disease risk, Dr. Mitchell also investigates the factors associated with the psychosocial well-being of older adults. She and her colleagues at the University of Southern California found that education is fundamental for maintaining a sense of personal control over and a hopeful outlook on the years to come. Older adults who completed less than a high school education experience the greatest declines in their sense of control and the greatest increases in feelings of hopelessness. Dr. Mitchell plans on continuing this line of research by identifying factors that protect against declines in psychosocial functioning as people age.

DIVISION OF
HEALTH POLICY AND
ADMINISTRATION

STUDYING THE IMPACT OF TREATMENT ON HEALTHCARE OUTCOMES

Dr. Pierre Thomas Léger is an associate professor of health policy and administration. He is an economist who studies healthcare markets, with special focus on the physicians' market. His research focuses on a variety of topics including variations in physician treatment styles and how treatment choices, costs and patient outcomes are influenced by market conditions including payment forms.

With colleagues at the University of Arizona, Dr. Léger is currently using a unique dataset of patients who seek treatment at Emergency Departments (ED) in the City of Montreal, Canada to examine the impact of treatment on future healthcare costs and outcomes. ED physicians rotate across shifts, implying that the assignment of patients is quasi-random. As a result, Dr. Léger and co-authors can examine how the initial assignment of an ED physician affects the use of resources during the initial ED visit and a variety of patient outcomes. That is, they can identify each physician's average contribution to costs (i.e., what they call a physician's practice style)



as well as their average contribution to good outcomes (i.e., what they call a physician's skills). They can then address questions like: Does who a patient sees matter in terms of the amount of resources that will be used in their Emergency care? Does who a patient sees matter in terms of outcomes like hospitalization? And, do ED physicians associated with more expensive practice styles yield better outcomes?

Another topic of interest to Dr. Léger is the large geographic variations in medical care spending and utilization in both Medicare and commercially insured markets. These variations have been a central piece of evidence of the inefficiency of the US healthcare system. However, policies have been proposed without much rigorous, theoretical guidance as to the underlying causes and implications of this variation. In a new project with Robert Town of the University Texas at Austin, he is building a testable theory of geographic variations in healthcare expenditures and utilization that reconciles a series of established facts of both the Medicare and commercial insurance markets as well as their independencies. By doing so, they can perform a series a policy simulations and test their implications to patient well-being.

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL
AND OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH SCIENCES

RESEARCHING THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSORS

Dr. Jyotsna Jagai is a research assistant professor of environmental and occupational health sciences. As an environmental epidemiologist, her research focuses on how ambient environments of residence can affect acute and chronic health

outcomes. In particular, her work focuses on environmental stressors of climate change, aging infrastructure, and livestock production.



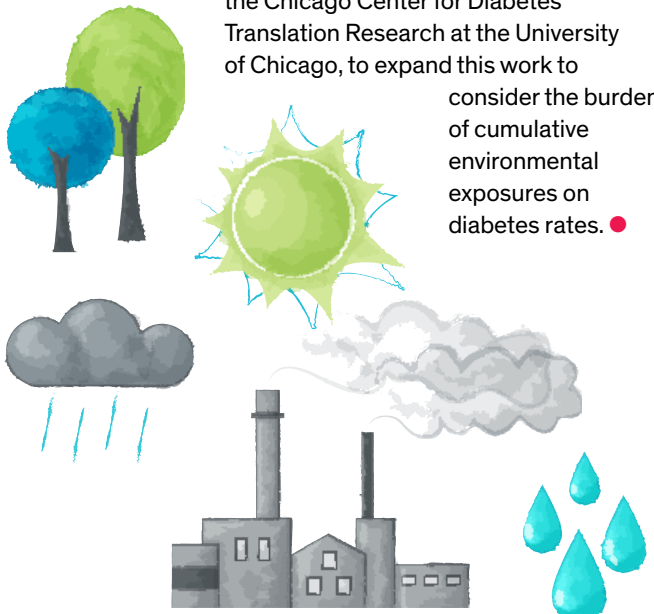
Climate change is expected to alter weather patterns in the U.S. with increasing heavy rainfall events and extreme temperatures. In the U.S., the aging water infrastructure is vulnerable to heavy rainfall. Dr. Jagai's work has demonstrated that areas which

have combined sewer overflow systems, such as cities on the Great Lakes, are at risk for increased rates of gastrointestinal illness after extreme precipitation events. In addition, her work has demonstrated an increase in hospitalizations for heat-related illness in Illinois, particularly in rural areas, associated with increased ambient temperature.

Dr. Jagai has also conducted research on the effects of large scale animal production, which can impact air and water quality of the surrounding communities. She has found that areas with high cattle production demonstrate varying patterns of gastrointestinal illness in humans suggesting that these facilities can affect water quality. Her recent work has shown that areas with large scale hog production are at an increased risk for methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infection.

Prior to coming to UIC, Dr. Jagai completed a post-doctoral fellowship with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), where her research focused on the burden of cumulative environmental exposures. She worked with a team to develop an Environmental Quality Index (EQI) on the county level for the entire U.S. This index considers impacts in five environmental domains; air, water, land, built environment, and socio-demographic environment. Utilizing the EQI as an exposure metric, she has demonstrated that cumulative environmental exposures can affect cancer risk and that the association varies for rural and urban areas. She has received a pilot grant, from the Chicago Center for Diabetes Translation Research at the University of Chicago, to expand this work to

consider the burden of cumulative environmental exposures on diabetes rates. ●



Center for Healthy Work:

Improving the health of people in precarious jobs

The University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health has received a five-year, \$4.2 million federal grant to establish the UIC Center for Healthy Work. Funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the Center for Healthy Work will focus on improving the health of people in low-wage, often hazardous, precarious employment situations.

The UIC center is one of six NIOSH Centers of Excellence for Total Worker Health (TWH). TWH, launched by NIOSH in 2011, is defined as “policies, programs, and practices that integrate protection from work-related safety and health hazards with promotion of injury and illness prevention efforts to advance worker well-being.” The program supports the “development and adoption of ground-breaking research and best practices of approaches that emphasize the opportunities to sustain and improve worker safety and health through a primary focus on the workplace.”

“Work is one of the most important determinants of health,” says Center director Lisa Brosseau, professor of environmental and occupational health. “You can’t expect people to quit smoking, eat better, or get enough sleep, if working conditions prevent healthy personal behaviors.”

Precarious employment – temporary, contract, involuntary, part-time or low-wage jobs – often involves long hours, few breaks, no control over work schedules, few benefits, and no assurance of ongoing employment. These unhealthy work conditions interfere with good health and well-being.

Joseph Zaroni, research assistant professor in environmental and occupational health sciences, and Christina Welter, clinical assistant professor of community health sciences, will co-direct the Center’s outreach core. Their team will partner with local, regional and national organizations to conduct an assessment of the health needs of people in precarious jobs, as well as strategies being used by organizations to address these needs. Their results will be used to work with partners crafting and implementing policies or programs aimed at turning unhealthy work into healthy work.



Center for Healthy Work investigators from left to right: Jeni Hebert-Beirne, Preethi Pratap, Kee Chan, Lorraine Conroy, Lisa Brosseau, Joe Zaroni and Christina Welter

The Center’s research core includes a project led by Lorraine Conroy, professor of environmental and occupational health sciences, and Jeni Hebert-Beirne, assistant professor of community health sciences. “Building on my past work addressing social determinants of health with community members and organizations in Little Village, Dr. Conroy and I will work with two Chicago neighborhoods experiencing high rates of job insecurity and health inequity,” Dr. Hebert-Beirne explains. “Recognizing that poor quality work can have a major impact on both the health of workers and the communities in which they reside, our project explores community-level approaches to address the occupational health needs of precariously employed workers residing within those communities.”

Their research takes a novel approach to first understand, and then develop interventions tailored to the experience of precariously-employed workers in these communities. “In the absence of traditional work settings through which to reach these workers, community organizations must have the capacity to address worker health and safety,” Dr. Conroy explains.

“The lack of health equity in Chicago’s disadvantaged communities is unfortunately manifest in a multitude of ways, but one way that has received inadequate attention is the impact of precarious, hazardous employment on the health of these communities.”

“One of our overarching goals is to promote health equity,” says Paul Brandt-Rauf, Dean. “The lack of health equity in Chicago’s disadvantaged communities is unfortunately manifest in a multitude of ways, but one way that has received inadequate attention is the impact of precarious, hazardous employment on the health of these communities. This new Center for Healthy Work represents an important step in addressing this issue,” he said.

The Center’s investigators expect their work will contribute to changes in local, state, and national policies and laws that promote jobs with healthier working conditions and more people having fair employment and decent work. ●



NEARLY 1 MILLION CHICAGOLAND WORKERS WIN EARNED SICK TIME

On April 13, 2016, the City Council introduced a citywide ordinance that will bring earned sick time to all Chicago workers. The ordinance was guided by recommendations recently released from the Working Families Task Force, a nonpartisan group of employers, associations, worker advocates and city representatives. The Task Force came to these recommendations following six months of research that included public listening campaigns, data and policy analysis, cost modeling and focus groups held across the city.

On June 22, 2016, Chicago alderman passed the Earned Sick Time Ordinance. Chicago now joins 5 states and 29 other cities who have passed sick time protections for workers.

THE EARNED SICK TIME ORDINANCE:

- Applies to businesses of all sizes. Small businesses are not exempt.
- Ensures that employees can earn up to 5 sick days a year.
- Gives employees the flexibility to roll over up to 20 hours of unused sick time to the next year.
- Allows employees to begin using sick time once they’ve been with an employer at least 6 months.
- Will lead to less than a 0.7- 1.5% increase in labor costs for most employers, according to a cost model developed by the Civic Consulting Alliance.
- Yields projected benefits of \$116 million annually for employers.
- Goes into effect in July 2017.

Just a few months after that historic earned sick time victory in Chicago, the Cook County Board of Commissioners passed their own sick time ordinance on October 5, 2016. For the first time, all employees who work anywhere in Cook County have the right to earn paid sick time, regardless of the size of their employer, or whether they are full- or part-time.

Together, these ordinances guarantee earned sick time to almost a million new workers in the Chicagoland area.

Making a Difference in the Health of Populations Around the World



Noreen Sarhene

1 WASHINGTON, D.C.

Noreen Sarhene, MBA/MPH candidate in health policy and administration, spent her summer at IMA World Health located in Washington, DC. IMA is a non-profit, faith-based, global health organization that believes in health, healing and well-being for all. Noreen worked in their business development department assisting with IMA's global grant proposal process.

2 MEXICO CITY

MPH candidates in community health sciences, Katie Endress and Veronica Garcia, spent their summer in Mexico City conducting their field practicum as part of an exchange collaboration with the National Institute of Public Health of Mexico (INSP). Additionally, SPH hosted five INSP students in Chicago.



Katie Endress and Veronica Garcia

3 GRENADA

Ariel Trocino, MPH candidate in health policy and administration, interviewed non-governmental social service providers in Grenada to assess and report on the social safety net structure for the Ministry of Social Development, Housing and Community Development.



Ariel Trocino

4 UGANDA

Jessica Wilson, MPH candidate in community health sciences, worked to develop a health education and women's empowerment program, The Joy of a Healthy Pregnancy and Birth. The purpose of this program is to promote healthy pregnancies in rural villages near Masaka, Uganda, with an emphasis on fistula prevention.



Jessica Wilson

5 JORDAN

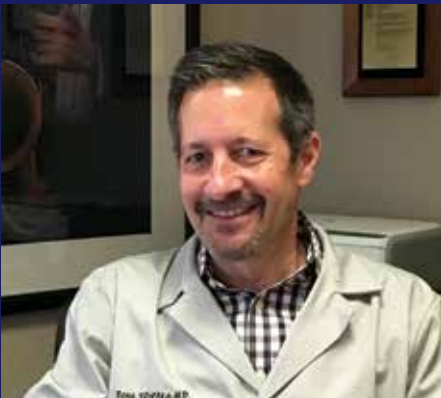
Jenny Guadamuz, PhD candidate in health policy and administration, spent her summer conducting field research focused on the utilization of cardiovascular medications in Palestine refugee camps in Jordan.



Jenny Guadamuz

Scholarship Addresses Disparities in LGBTQ Community

"My professional career as a family practitioner paralleled the AIDS epidemic," recalls Ross Slotten, MD, (MPH '96). "My practice base was mostly gay men, so I was inadvertently swept up in caring for this community." Back in the early 1980's, there were few doctors interested or willing to take care of these patients. Dr. Slotten and his business partner at the time felt called to treat them. "We came to feel like pioneers and accidental experts in caring for the greater LGBTQ community. Beyond HIV/AIDS, there are many other diseases and illnesses often experienced by the global LGBTQ community due to socio-cultural, legal, racial/ethnic, and psychosocial challenges."



Dr. Ross Slotten

To help address these disparities, Dr. Slotten established the Slotten Scholarship in Global Health. "My favorite professor, Judith Levy, and the UIC SPH Office of Advancement came to me with something they knew I would find compelling. Instead of just blindly giving to UIC, I was invited to do something practical and much needed in helping the HIV mission and also the comprehensive public health issues affecting the LGBTQ community." The financial gift he made to UIC SPH to create this scholarship fund came easily after reflecting on the wonderful experience he had there, Dr. Slotten said. "Judith and other outstanding faculty had a profound impact in shaping how I look at disease, which has broadened my outlook and made me a better practitioner."

The scholarship fund was designed to defray the costs of conducting a project that focuses on health disparities among LGBTQ communities. Colin Kunzweiler, PhD candidate in epidemiology, was the 2016 award recipient of the first annual Slotten Scholarship in Global Health. Under the guidance of Dr. Bob Bailey, professor of epidemiology, Colin spent his summer in Kisumu, Kenya comparing the validity and diagnostic accuracy of various methods that measure adherence to antiretroviral therapy. Additionally, he examined factors associated with virologic failure among men who have sex with men who initiate the therapy. Colin plans to use the funds to travel back to Kisumu in November 2016 to conduct follow up visits, as well as travel to Seattle to present his research at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in February 2017.

"The students are the way to go," said Dr. Slotten. "In discussion with Judith Levy, it became apparent to me that funding student scholarships was a unique way to help future generations continue to fight HIV and other health disparities among the LGBTQ communities. The treatments we have today for managing such disease is a step in the right direction, but we desperately still need a cure or vaccine. I believe the future generations will make it happen, and feel privileged to support their efforts."

Cure Violence Ranks in Top 20 on 2016 Top 500 Global NGOs List



The UIC School of Public Health Cure Violence program ranks 14th in NGO Advisor's 2016 report of the Top 500 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the world and 1st among organizations devoted to reducing violence. Cure Violence has been ranked among the Top 20 global NGOs for three consecutive years, and this year's ranking is up from 17th in 2015.

NGO Advisor's report is considered one of the definitive international rankings of NGOs. Other organizations named in the Top 20 list include Medecins Sans Frontieres, Oxfam, Save the Children, Grameen Foundation and Mercy Corps.

Cure Violence, founded in 1995 by Gary Slutkin, M.D., professor of international health and infectious disease at UIC SPH, and formerly of the World Health Organization, works to reduce violence in communities around the world using disease control and behavior change methods. The organization's model follows a three-part strategy: detect and interrupt potentially violence conflicts, identify and treat individuals at highest risk of committing violence, and mobilize the community to change norms.

The model has been statistically validated to reduce shootings, killings or both by 30% to 70% in independent evaluations.

Cure Violence is active in the areas of gang and youth violence, as well as cartel, tribal, election and prison violence, and is increasingly being consulted on violent extremism. It currently has partners in nine countries, including more than 50 communities in 31 cities.

"We're very grateful for this ranking and see it as a recognition of both the importance of the work of reducing violence and the impact of the public health approach in



addressing the problem," Dr. Slutkin said. "As we are largely a guiding and training organization, we give great credit to our many partners in the U.S. and around the world who are doing such great work in making their communities safer by implementing health methods to treat violence."

implementing health methods to treat violence

Cure Violence is leading efforts to shift the understanding and treatment of violence to emphasize a public health approach in the United States and working with national leaders; facilitating the rapid transfer and scaling of the best health methods for reducing violence through the creation of a Cure Violence Training Center; establishing a new rapid-response program that can be used in high-risk neighborhoods; and using cutting-edge social media intelligence platforms to predict, analyze and act on potential violence based on real-time social media conversations.

Internationally, the organization aims to multiply its violence prevention efforts particularly in the Middle East and North Africa region, with an initial focus on Syria. Other plans include a Middle East training center and public education campaign, as well as the creation of Cure Violence-trained volunteer corps in Jerusalem and the West Bank. ●



The UIC School of Public Health has been supported through the years by the generous gifts of many loyal friends. We are proud to honor the distinguished group of leadership donors who, year after year, help the University prepare our students for success. Membership in the Founders Circle recognizes donors who make annual gifts of \$500 or more. Benefits of membership include:

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



UIC School of Public Health held its annual Founders Circle reception at the Ivy Room in Chicago on October 5, 2016. The evening included a celebration of Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf for his nine years of success at the school and guests were invited to tour the beautiful Driehaus Museum.



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

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

Your gift helps us prepare the next generation of leaders, thinkers and doers and inspire answers to tomorrow's biggest challenges.

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

Celebrating Ten Years

of the Douglas Passaro Global Horizons Scholarship

When associate professor of epidemiology, Dr. Douglas Passaro, passed away in 2015 at just 43 years old, his parents struggled with their own personal loss. But the University of Illinois School of Public Health, and the world, was where they knew they could honor him and make his life’s work of promoting global health everlasting.

Lanny and his wife, Terry Passaro, along with Dr. Sherry Nordstrom, who was Dr. Passaro’s wife, created the Douglas Passaro Global Horizons Scholarship to ensure students interested in solving public health issues could do so. “This was a way for our family to honor Doug and to encourage others to join the fight to solve the many health challenges facing other countries who need our assistance. We hoped that some award winners would chose internationally focused careers but we knew that all of them would have an enriching experience,” Lanny Passaro said.

Over the last decade, the fund, which is supported by over 90 contributors, has provided scholarship money which has covered travel expenses for 40 graduate students who have worked in remote areas all over the world.

“The Passaro Global Horizons Scholarships have provided a tremendous boost to the Global Health Program,” said Alyson Lofthouse, senior associate director of the Global Health



Lanny Passaro speaks with a 2012 scholarship recipient.



Doug Passaro

Program. “The scholarships foster the ability for students to conduct field work abroad which may have otherwise been unattainable. Students return from abroad and bring their experiences into the classroom, providing alternative perspectives to the content under study, thereby enhancing the learning environment. After graduating, scholars have obtained positions in international NGOs, CDC, and the State Department, among others. I have no doubt their experiences as Passaro Scholars contributed to their candidacy.”

Early in his career, Dr. Passaro, who also was a physician in infectious diseases at the University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System from 2001 to 2005, spent three years in Swaziland working with the Peace Corps right after graduating from college. He lived with no electricity or running water while working to improve public health. He also volunteered to teach science to children.

“His passion was clearly much larger in trying to be as effective as possible in reducing terrible diseases,” Lanny Passaro said. “He was concerned with people having such basic things as clean water. He always wanted to get the biggest bang for a buck. He thought ‘what can I do here that has a big impact yet is economically possible?’” When Doug returned from his years of volunteer service, his father asked him if it was difficult to live in such challenging conditions. “He told me those were the best years of his life,” Lanny Passaro recalls.

Dr. Passaro’s passion was to focus on health issues and projects that could impact 100,000 people instead of just one. At times, his father said, Doug was like a detective trying to crack a case. He spoke of one such instance when his son worked for the Centers for Disease Control in Northern California. Dr. Passaro



Doug Passaro with Guatemala colleagues in Guatemala City

investigated a mystery involving the heart center of a hospital in the San Francisco area where a mysterious illness caused the center to shut down.

Dr. Passaro became a “detective” and narrowed the source of the unexplained illness to one nurse, his father said. He said

his son figured out that this one nurse was present during many surgeries in the heart center where the patients became ill. So one day he visited with her, followed her throughout her morning routine and discovered she was using an exfoliator that was contaminated. Mystery solved!

Each year the Passaros meet the students receiving the scholarship before and after their trips abroad. They enjoy seeing the students’ enthusiasm when sharing their stories with one another of how the trips impacted them. They always ask students about the highlights and lowlights of each trip and are inspired by how they see the world differently after their experiences. “We get a lot of pleasure out of it,” Terry Passaro said. “The fact that Doug’s gone but his work and his ideas and his impact are certainly still alive. We feel very much like this is a big and growing family. Through the years we try to keep up with the students and we care about where they have gone after graduating.”

Mary Otoo, MPH candidate in epidemiology, is a 2016 Douglas Passaro Global Horizons Scholarship awardee. The scholarship funded her volunteer experience with Unite for Sight, where she worked with doctors in rural Ghana to provide free vision care and eye restoring surgeries. “This scholarship gave me the opportunity to see public health practice in global settings. My volunteer experience encompassed all my healthcare interests; global health, public health and ophthalmology and is the single most rewarding experience of my MPH professional education.”

The Passaros said they always are impressed with the way UIC SPH manages the Global Health Program and the students selected for the scholarships. So impressed that in 2014, the couple presented the school with a fundraising challenge. They asked the school to raise \$250,000 for the Global Health Program and they would generously match each gift, dollar for dollar. The school met the challenge by December 31, 2015, and the funds will be used to establish a professorship in global health.

Dr. Sherry Nordstrom worked as an OBGYN at UIC hospital for 13 years and serves on the selection committee for the scholarship. The scholarship program is an “incredibly fitting tribute to Doug. He was really passionate about global health and the experiences you can have in another culture,” she said. “So this opportunity for these students to be able to experience that ... he would just be thrilled so many people are getting to experience this life-changing event. I think it’s been amazing.”

A memorial garden dedicated to Douglas Passaro sits in front of the UIC School of Public Health and the family goes regularly to maintain it. Students, faculty, staff and others pass the memorial every time they walk into the building – a constant reminder of the impact that Dr. Passaro had on the field of global health.



Members of the Passaro family meet the 2016 scholarship recipients. From left to right: Lanny Passaro, Nicole Laramée, Paul Brandt-Rauf, Mary Otoo, Kathryn Vivirito, Peggy Sue Batterton, Jenny Guadamuz, Sherry Nordstrom, Terry Passaro, and David Weindling.

Because of the program inspired by Dr. Passaro, his entire family hopes these students will do something that could have global impact. “Through this scholarship, I was able to witness first hand rare ophthalmology cases that impact the quality of life of people,” Ms. Otoo said. “The impact of my volunteer experience inspires me the greatest to pursue medicine after my MPH.” ●

Preparing Illinois for the Health Effects of Climate Change

Dr. Samuel Dorevitch, Associate Professor and Interim Division Director in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at the UIC School of Public Health, recently received a 5-year award of approximately \$1 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the second phase of Building Resilience Against Climate Effects in Illinois (BRACE-IL-II). The purpose of this work is to prepare the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and residents of Illinois for the health effects of climate change by developing a climate change adaptation plan.

The impacts of climate change include “warming temperatures, changes in precipitation, increases in the frequency or intensity of some extreme weather events, and rising sea levels. These impacts threaten our health by affecting the food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the weather we experience,” according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Furthermore, the 2014 National Climate Assessment predicts that, “increased heat wave intensity and frequency, increased humidity, degraded air quality, and reduced water quality will increase public health risks” in the Midwest specifically. Along

these lines, BRACE-IL-II will continue to focus on heat stress illness, health consequences of flooding (such as gastrointestinal illness, symptoms related to indoor mold growth and physical injuries), exacerbation of chronic respiratory disease by ozone and pollen, vector-borne diseases (such as Lyme disease and West Nile fever) and mental health consequences of extreme weather events.

“As the Midwest gets warmer and wetter, health problems that are related to heat and flooding are expected to become more frequent and more severe,” Dr. Dorevitch explained. Being aware of these risks means a plan can be put in place to reduce the impact on health. However, it became clear during the first phase of the BRACE project that there was a lack of knowledge among public health professionals about climate change and its impact on health. In order to increase awareness, during the first phase of the project onsite presentations were given and an online training for health department staff, along with educational videos, were developed.

“These health effects are not new. What we’re doing is connecting the dots between the health effects and climate change and how climate change will exacerbate them. We saw throughout the last four years in working with local health departments that they weren’t making that connection,” said Elena Grossman, MPH, BRACE-IL Project Manager. Ms. Grossman explained further, saying, “We’re not only working with local health departments to educate them, but we’re also building their capacity to educate their jurisdiction.”

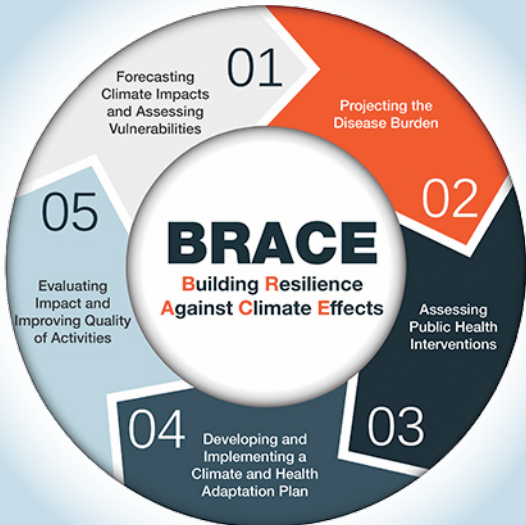


Photo credit: USDA/Peggy Greb

The project has also had a positive impact on student education at UIC SPH. A course on climate change was established for the Master of Public Health (MPH) program as a result. “We are educating the future generation of public health leaders, and now SPH students have the opportunity to learn about climate change through coursework at UIC,” Dr. Dorevitch said.

While educating health professionals is a key component of the project, Dr. Dorevitch is also quick to point out that many recommendations for climate change preparedness include people and groups outside of the public health sector. “If, for example, we want to make Chicago more resilient to flooding,

health departments can’t solve that on their own. So, we promote making connections to ensure public health is at the table and communicating to people who are in a position to make changes in the way the city is run,” he said. “It’s not that the structural needs can be fulfilled by public health, so to speak, but public health can be the convener, the educator, the catalyst,” Ms. Grossman added.

As such, in addition to local health departments and IDPH, partners for BRACE-IL-II include planning agencies, organizations that address emergency preparedness, the office of the State Climatologist, and a State of Illinois mental health agency, among others. Dr. Dorevitch believes that, “by building a consensus among the healthcare community, the public health community, the emergency preparedness community, urban planners and the general public, there will be greater priority placed on being climate ready, being resilient and being able to withstand changes in our climate system.”

continued on next page...



Speakers and planning committee from the Chicago Heat Wave Forum in 2015: Babette Neuberger, Alyson Lofthouse, Sam Dorevitch, UIC Chancellor Michael Amiridis, Elena Grossman, Steven Davis, Doug Sisterson, Jan Semenza, Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf, Tom Skilling, John Wilhelm, and Eric Klinenberg

2nd Annual Climate Change Forum

In September 2015, UIC SPH held its inaugural conference on climate change focused on the 1995 Chicago Heat Wave, which killed more than 700 people and is one of the worst natural and public health disasters in the United States. On November 15, 2016, the UIC School of Public Health will host its second annual forum entitled “Climate Change in the Caribbean: Building Public Health Resilience,” as part of an ongoing effort to draw attention to the effects of climate change on health around the world.

“In the western hemisphere, Caribbean nations and territories are already beginning to experience the adverse impacts of climate change from sea level rise, emerging infections, severe weather events and biodiversity loss, among others, and in many ways they are less well equipped to deal with the consequences. So, this is a critical and timely topic for the public health profession to address now,” explained Dean PaulBrandt-Rauf, DrPH, MD, ScD.

Speakers will include representatives from Haiti, Grenada, Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Pan-American Health Organization (see below for more details). The forum is generously supported by the UIC SPH Dean’s Office, Global Health Program, Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, BRACE-Illinois Project, and the Student Alliance for Public Health and the Environment. This event is free and open to the public.

Speakers

Pan-American Health Organization: Julietta Rodriguez Guzman is a native of Colombia, a physician, and a specialist in occupational medicine and occupational epidemiology. Her long lasting contributions to the Workers’ Health Program at PAHO, WHO, ILO, OAS, NSC, IADB, WB and other international organizations, granted her the credentials and the experience to be appointed as Regional Advisor in Workers’ Health for the Americas.

Puerto Rico: Estrella Santiago Perez is an attorney at a community-based organization in a section of San Juan, Puerto that suffers from recurrent flooding. Among her areas of expertise is environmental justice and legal frameworks, such as land trusts, to promote environmental, urban design, and engineering solutions to the problem of urban flooding in a low-income area of San Juan.

Cuba: Guillermo Mesa Ridel is a physician and epidemiologist with expertise in infectious

diseases and disaster planning, at the National University of Public Health (ENSAP), Havana, Cuba. He is the Director of the Latin American Center for Disaster Medicine (CLAMED), and he is a much sought-after speaker worldwide on the topic of public health preparedness.

Grenada: Martin Forde is a professor and Chair of the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (DPHPM) in the School of Medicine at St. George’s University in Grenada. Dr. Forde serves as the Director for the WHO Collaborating Centre in Environmental and Occupational Health, which is housed in the DPHPM.

Haiti: Dr. Simone Sonia Jean has a long and remarkable career in research and has been working for more than 30 years with key institutions such as the Cornell University Infectious Diseases Research Unit, the National

Institute of Laboratory and Research in Haiti, the Haitian Study Groups on Kaposi’s Sarcoma and Opportunistic Diseases, United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund, and the Ministry of Health in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Doug Sisterson, Argonne National Laboratory: Doug has been involved with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science’s Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) Climate Research Facility (www.ARM.gov) since its inception in 1990. The ARM program is the largest federally sponsored climate change research program in DOE and the ARM Facility provides the world’s most comprehensive 24/7 observational capabilities for obtaining atmospheric data specifically for climate change research.

Climate Change in the Caribbean: Building Public Health Resilience

DATE: **November 15, 2016**
TIME: **9am-3:30pm**

LOCATION: **UIC SPH Auditorium**
1603 W. Taylor Street, Chicago, IL 60612

QUESTIONS? **Contact Elena Grossman**
egross5@uic.edu or 312-996-2085

WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO:
<http://publichealth.uic.edu/climate-change-in-the-caribbean>

RSVP: **<http://www.cvent.com/d/lvq1jy>**

Celebrating the Achievements of Students, Alumni, Faculty and Staff

MPH candidates **KAREN AQUIRRE, MADISON HAMMETT, ALYSON MOSER,** and **GABIJA REVIS** have been selected for the nationally-recognized Schweitzer Fellowship—a year-long service learning program that empowers students to design and implement innovative community-based projects to address the health needs of underserved Chicagoans.

OLAMIDE BAMIDELE (MPH ‘11) and **ALEXANDRIA WILLIS** (MPH ‘11) have created the mobile dating application Go Dutch Today, which helps couples split the cost of a date – the goal being to ease gender imbalance. They are also developing Pier Diem, a website that assists frequent 5 business travelers in finding balance between their work and personal lives, and connects them with those who have similarly hectic lives.

LAUREL BERMAN (PhD ‘06, MS ‘02), **WESLEY EPPLIN** (MPH ‘11) and **FELIPE TENDICK MATESANZ** (MS ‘13) were selected by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to participate in a Culture of Health Leaders initiative, a three-year national leadership development program targeting sharp health inequities along lines of race and income.



Jinit Desai



UIC School of Public Health 2016 Schweitzer Fellows from left to right: Madison Hammett, Gabi Revis, Karen Aguirre and Aly Moser

PAUL BRANDT-RAUF, DrPH, MD, ScD, Dean, has been named to the National Toxicology Program Board of Scientific Counselors.

REBECCA BRIDGE (MPH ‘16) is the new Data Manager at Hektoen Institute.

JAMIE F. CHRIQUI, PhD, MPH, professor of health policy and administration, has been appointed to be a member of the Community Preventive Services Task Force of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

JINIT DESAI, MPH candidate in community health sciences, received a Fulbright grant to teach English at La Universidad del Valle in Cali, Colombia.

BARB EPSTIEN, (MPH ‘78), CIH, FAIHA, recently became a Fatality Investigator & Outreach Specialist with the Oregon Health & Science University in the Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences.

ALI FISH KAMEN (MPH ‘96) is a Wellness Program Manager for StayWell, a health engagement company that helps clients engage and educate employees to improve health and business results.

MELISSA GILLIAM, MD, (MPH ‘95) professor of obstetrics and gynecology and professor of pediatrics at the University of Chicago Medical School, has been given the added duties of vice provost for academic leadership, advancement, and diversity at the university.

JENNY GUADAMUZ, PhD candidate in health policy and administration, was named a Health Policy Research Scholar by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.



Ali Fish Kamen

Celebrating the Achievements of Students, Alumni, Faculty and Staff

JANET HILL (MPH '16) is the new Chief Operating Officer of the Rock Island County Health Department.

MILDRED HUNTER (MPH '76) is the recipient of the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award from Health & Medicine Policy Research Group.

CLAUDE-ALIX JACOB (MPH '98), Chief Public Health Officer for the Cambridge (MA) Public Health Department, was named the new President of the National Association of County & City Health Officials.



Claude-Alix Jacob

RACHAEL M. JONES, PhD, MPH, assistant professor of environmental and occupational health sciences, passed the examination by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene to become a Certified Industrial Hygienist. She was also selected to be an American Industrial Hygiene Association Distinguished Lecturer.

STEVEN E. LACEY, (PhD '02), CIH, CSP was inducted as the new President of the American Industrial Hygiene Association at the 2016 American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Expo.



Steven Lacey, left

DrPH candidate **MEGAN MARTIN** was promoted to Major in the U.S. Air Force.



Megan Martin

JENNIFER J. MCDANNALD (MPH '95) was promoted to the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army.

MICHAEL MCGEE (MPH '96) was presented with the Gary Legends honor by Gary, Indiana Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson. The award is given to local residents with lifelong contributions to the Gary community.

KERRY O'ROURKE (MPH '15) is now a Research Coordinator at Marquette University. She is working to recruit participants, collect qualitative and quantitative data, analyze results, and disseminate research findings on a study called "The Process of Adjustment Among Caregivers of Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury."

LISA M. POWELL, PhD, professor and director of the division of health policy and administration, has been chosen to receive the honorary title of UIC Distinguished Professor.

ERIN C. RAYMOND (MPH '16) accepted the position as HRSA Grant Program Coordinator with the UIC College of Dentistry.

ROBERT A. RUBINSTEIN, PhD, (MS '83) received the 2016 Victor Sidel and Barry Levy Award for Peace from the American Public Health Association.

GARY SLUTKIN, MD, founder of Cure Violence, received the UNICEF 2016 Chicago Humanitarian of the Year Award.

ALLEN J. SMART (MPH '95) is chair of the National Advisory Committee for the University of Wisconsin/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's County Health Rankings and Roadmaps Program. He also recently co-authored a chapter titled "Philanthropy, Health Systems and Community Health Improvement" in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation supported book Stakeholder Health: Insights into New Systems of Health.



Jennifer McDannald

Statistical data indicates that approximately a million Americans travel abroad to get medical treatment. This trend has been on the rise due to the affordability of treatment abroad.

With a background in Emergency Medicine and after many years practicing family medicine, David P. Kalin, MD, (MPH '76) saw an opportunity to focus on the global healthcare community. As a true entrepreneur, he used his expertise to develop an organization where patients can connect with distinguished medical professionals around the world. He serves as Chairman of the International Board of Medicine and Surgery (IBMS), a respected and global voice of physicians, surgeons, and dentists throughout the global healthcare and medical tourism marketplace.



Certifying the Finest Healthcare Providers Worldwide

David P. Kalin

Dr. Kalin says that patients can expect to save around 50% off medical costs when they seek treatment overseas. While more patients are traveling overseas for healthcare treatments, it is essential to ensure the safety of the treating physician and the medical facility. "Because the quality of international medical care can vary, IBMS exists to assist the global community in making informed choices for international healthcare needs," he said. "Patients need to do their own research about their overseas doctor and their facilities to ensure their own safety and peace of mind."

Dr. Kalin, who is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians and Board Certified in Family Practice and as an Independent Medical Examiner, explained that IBMS provides international healthcare certifications and medical certifications to physicians, surgeons, dentists, and other healthcare professionals. In addition, it offers Center of Healthcare Excellence certification to Hospitals, Specialty Centers, and Clinics.

"Traveling abroad affords patients the opportunity to see new places and recuperate in privacy," said Dr. Kalin. "The opportunity to make more informed decisions about their health care needs and solutions through IBMS gives international patients and their travel associates greater confidence and comfort."

Amanda Koch (MPH '15) never considered herself an avid cyclist, but after learning about the affordable housing crisis plaguing Illinois and the rest of the country, she decided to strap on her helmet and trek across the U.S. with the organization Bike and Build. Accompanied by 25 other cyclists, Ms. Koch spent 75 days pedaling from Virginia Beach, Virginia, to Cannon Beach, Oregon, to raise money and awareness for an issue she studied thoroughly in the division of epidemiology and biostatistics.

Alumna Rides for a Reason

Amanda Koch



"Safe and affordable housing is an important social determinant of both physical and mental health. It's something that I personally care a lot about and want to improve," said Ms. Koch. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, there is no U.S. state where a person working full time at minimum wage can afford a fair market, two-bedroom apartment.

Ms. Koch, who lives in Pilsen, said she has seen "family members having to move away from the

neighborhood they've lived in their entire lives because they can no longer afford it." Her passion for affordable housing translated into surpassing her fundraising goal of \$4,500. She was pleasantly surprised to raise a total of \$5,228.

Ms. Koch's 10-week ride wasn't without its challenges, though. "Being from Chicago, I had nothing but flat land to train on," she said. "I was incredibly unprepared for the Appalachian Mountain Range and the Blue Ridge Parkway. It killed me."

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

2017 Events

Please consider joining us for the following events:

FEBRUARY 9, 2017
5:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Gaming for the Greater Good
Headquarters Beercade – Lakeview
2833 N. Sheffield Ave.
Chicago, IL 60657

MARCH 2, 2017
6:00 PM – Lecture
7:15 PM – International Night
Alumni Learning Series Lecture & International Night
UIC School of Public Health
1603 W. Taylor St.
Chicago, IL 60612

MARCH 30, 2017
6 PM – 10 PM
Annual Alumni Celebration & MHA 10 Year Anniversary
Save the Date!

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK
APRIL 3 – 9, 2017

APRIL 5, 2017
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Women in Public Health Panel
UIC School of Public Health Auditorium
1603 W. Taylor St.
Chicago, IL 60612

APRIL 7, 2017
12:00 PM – Poster Viewing
2:30 PM – Awards Ceremony
Research and Practice Forum & Awards Day
UIC School of Public Health
1603 W. Taylor St.
Chicago, IL 60612

MAY 5, 2017
3:30 PM
Commencement
UIC Forum
725 W. Roosevelt Road
Chicago, IL 60607

MAY 11, 2017
5:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Healthy Spirits
Plymouth Rooftop Bar
325 S. Plymouth Court
Chicago, IL 60604

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



AIHce RECEPTION
Alumni in Baltimore for the American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Exposition attended a special reception on May 25, 2016.



ADLER AFTER DARK
The UIC SPH Recent Graduate Board held its annual event at the Adler Planetarium on July 21, 2016.



HEALTHY SPIRITS
Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf (center) said farewell to alumni at a Healthy Spirits event held on November 8, 2016

Thank You to Our Volunteer Leadership

The UIC School of Public Health would like to thank the dedicated members of its Executive Advisory Board, Alumni Board and Recent Graduate Board for all that they have done to support our school and further the mission.



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