



# Healthviews

Addressing Hazards in the Arts Industry

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ❖ Community Health Sciences Division Gets New Curriculum
- ❖ Taking a Transdisciplinary Approach to Healthy Aging
- ❖ Establishing a Legacy for Curtisteen Steward

# 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 in Haiti by Nicole Laramée, MPH candidate concentrating in Global Public Health Policy and Administration. A young boy stands against the harsh realities of unsafe sanitation, lack of running water, and no electricity. Nicole has made two trips to Haiti with Janet Lin, MD, (MPH '04) and will be returning to complete her field practicum to work on a Haitian-led disaster risk reduction training program.

**COVER** Aguaje Ramos and members of the Buena Vista Social Club receive a Health and Safety Award from Dr. Dave Hinkamp, Dr. Gil Munoz, David Hill, Kirsti Gilmore and others from the UIC Health in the Arts group, at the Ramos home in Havana.



# Healthviews

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Dean's Desk
- 3 Pulse of Public Health
- 4 SPHere: Celebrating Achievements
- 6 Neighborhood Commitment
- 9 National Scope/Global Impact
- 12 Research
- 16 Advancing Health
- 18 Community Partnerships
- 20 Class Acts
- 24 Alumni Notes

### EDITOR

Sara Giloth

### WRITERS

Sonya Booth	Amanda Marrazzo
Susan Buchanan	Katie McGrath
Mark Dworkin	Sharon Parmet
Ruth Fuller	Emily Stiehl
Sara Giloth	Alisa Velonis

### ART DIRECTION AND DESIGN

Jill McClain, Design 23

### PRINTING

Active

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



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

### SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

#### Dean

Paul Brandt-Rauf, DrPH, MD, ScD

#### Senior Associate Dean

Lorraine M. Conroy, ScD, CIH

#### Associate Dean for Research

Geri Donenberg, PhD

#### Associate Dean for Finance and Resource Planning

Jackie Finch

#### Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Babette J. Neuberger, JD, MPH

#### Associate Dean for Community and Public Health Practice

Richard Sewell, MPH

#### Assistant Dean for Urban Health and Diversity Programs

Nadine Peacock, PhD, MPH

#### Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs

Karin Opacich, PhD

#### Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

John Slavick, MS

### OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT

#### Assistant Dean for Advancement

Tamara Michel Josserand, Ed.M, MBA

#### Director of Donor Relations

Sara Giloth, MA

#### Director of Development

Cameron Johnson

#### Director of Grants, Cure Violence

Daria Zvetina

#### Associate Director of Alumni Relations

Heather Aguilar, MPA

#### Associate Director of Grants Development

Katie McGrath

#### Advancement Coordinator

Beverly Paulsey

### DIVISION DIRECTORS

#### Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

Samuel Dorevitch, MD

#### Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Ronald Hershow, MD

#### Community Health Sciences

Jesus Ramirez-Valles, PhD, MPH

#### Health Policy and Administration

Lisa M. Powell, PhD



Now that another academic year has closed, I'm pausing to reflect on all that our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends have helped the UIC School of Public Health accomplish. In this issue of *Healthviews*, I am pleased to share with you stories that will make you proud to be part of the UIC SPH community.

Did you know our faculty are working to address environmental health challenges for artists at institutions like the Goodman Theater and the Art Institute of Chicago? People in the arts — from sculptors, painters, musicians and dancers to costumers, library archivists and museum conservators — also work in hazardous situations, often without the necessary health and safety training. Read about the unique work of our Health in the Arts Program on pages 6-8.

The public health crisis in Flint, MI has made international news. We asked various public health professionals to weigh in on what they believe should be done to address the health effects of lead exposure in the Pulse of Public Health section on page 3.

I'm very proud of the fact that UIC SPH consistently ranks among the top 20 schools and programs of public health receiving research funding from the National Institutes of Health. Read about our groundbreaking research in each of our divisions on pages 12-13. Jun Ma, professor of health policy and administration, is the new director of our Center for Research on Health and Aging, which you can read about on page 14.

The school's commitment to continually improving is reflected in an article on pages 4-5 about our new curriculum for the division of community health sciences. We were recently recognized for our achievements by the Village of Skokie as the recipients of its Public Health Partners in Excellence Award, which you can read about in our Community Partner Spotlight on pages 18-19.

Lastly, I hope you'll see photos from some of the many events that took place during the year (pages 24-25) and be inspired to join us at one of our many alumni events planned for the upcoming year.

Wishing you good health,

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

# Students Take the Lead at UIC Day of Service

More than 300 students, faculty and alumni came together on April 16, 2016 to give back to the community during the 7th annual UIC Day of Service. Volunteers worked at 30 sites across the Chicago area, cleaning up beaches, framing a house, walking sheltered animals and more.

The Student Alliance for Public Health and the Environment (SAPHE) was the site lead for the beach clean-up project. "With 81 volunteers, we were able to collect 76 pounds of trash and 50 pounds of construction materials and waste at Oak Street Beach," said Alison Krajewski, (MPH '16), Vice President and Co-Founder of SAPHE. Beach cleanup is part of the Adopt-a-Beach program through the Alliance for the Great Lakes. This program helps the Alliance gather information for its online database, which is used for pollution prevention and education purposes. "This is the third beach clean-up event for SAPHE and an annual tradition with Day of Service we hope to continue for many years to come."



SAPHE members lead the efforts of the beach clean-up at Oak Street Beach on April 16, 2016: Liza Topete, Alison Krajewski, Eric Dangoy, Abhilasha Shrestha and Cynthia Cordova.

Cleaning up the beach is important to public health for many reasons, said Ms. Krajewski. Chicago beaches are highly popular in the summer months, with approximately 20 million visiting annually. Identifying pollution sources, restoring habitats, and removing litter helps to keep the water and beaches clean in order to protect the health and safety of people and aquatic wildlife. Not only is litter unappealing aesthetically, it also poses



More than 80 UIC students participated in the Day of Service by cleaning up Oak Street Beach.

health and safety concerns. "By being involved in beach cleanup, it provided our participants with education and awareness of protecting the Great Lakes and the local beaches," she said.

SAPHE was organized as a student group in 2014 "because we felt there was not a strong student presence specifically for environmental health," Ms. Krajewski said. With the faculty support of Dr. Sam Dorevitch, director of the division of environmental and occupational health sciences, this student group connects students, alumni and faculty to openly share and discuss ideas about public health and environmental health issues. "My co-founding members, Mailee Moua (MPH '14) and Audrey De La Cruz (MPH '13), and I were trying to get students interested in environmental public health issues because they affect everyone, everyday - from the water we drink to the air we breathe." Group activities include public health and environmental health awareness and education, networking, and service.

Creating and being part of SAPHE gave Ms. Krajewski a way to share her passion of environmental health with other students and faculty. "I have continued to be involved with SAPHE because I truly believe in what we do and am very proud of the community service projects we participate in, which hopefully make a difference, even if it's in a small way. Beach cleanup in particular is one of my favorite events we do!" ●

## Flint, Michigan is facing a serious public health crisis, with high levels of lead in its water supply. How should public health officials respond to address the health effects of lead exposure in this community?

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



Health officials should encourage families in the Flint area to have their water tested for lead, use water filters, and have their children's blood lead levels tested. They should also encourage families to incorporate fresh fruits and vegetables into meals, particularly foods high in calcium, vitamin C and iron, and to connect their children with programs that will stimulate their brains, such as summer reading programs.

**TODD STANKEWICZ, MPH '01, MBA, CAPT, U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, REGIONAL EMERGENCY COORDINATOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES REGION V**



Public health professionals can respond through water drives, education on the effects of lead, and increasing families' access to healthcare services. However, these efforts are peripherally helpful and insufficient to address the systemic inequities that caused the crisis in the first place. In order to have a more lasting impact, public health officials should advocate for systemic and structural policy change in cities like Flint to ensure that this environmental discrimination does not continue to occur.

**TIFFANY N. FORD, MPH '16**



Public health and allied professions should insist that proven interim and long-term strategies be implemented and funded to eliminate and control lead paint, dust, soil and water hazards. Lead poisoning is entirely preventable and its prevention is even more cost-effective than vaccines; for every \$1 spent on lead hazard control we gain at least \$17 in benefits. Public health and other professionals should join the National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition to insist that Congress invest the resources we need to protect our children.

**DAVID JACOBS, PHD, CIH  
ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES**



Public health leaders should actively monitor lead exposure levels, continue to provide access to clean, safe water, and proactively communicate with residents about the risks and resources available. In the long term, they should actively engage with community, nonprofit and philanthropic leaders to implement a comprehensive strategy to control lead exposure including removing lead service lines safely, creating lead safe housing, and addressing soil and other hazards.

**ANNE EVENS, PHD '10  
CEO, ELEVATE ENERGY**



Public health officials need to critically examine institutional power structures and transparently modify them to ensure accountability to the public. Officials should engage Flint residents and community organizations in crafting the response to lead exposure health effects.

**ERIKA L. MARSHALL,  
MPH CANDIDATE**



Public health officials should automatically be engaged with the community in order to address the adverse effects of the lead exposure. Primary care should be around routine screening of blood and monitoring of water supply to produce an intervention that will reduce disparities and create equity in the community.

**FARUQ SARUMI, BA CANDIDATE**

## New Community Health Sciences Curriculum Will Modernize Teaching By Amanda Marrazzo

As one of its long-time leaders prepares to retire and the entire institution implements a new set of curriculum, students pursuing a master's degree in public health (MPH) at the UIC School of Public Health's division of Community Health Sciences (CHS) will gain their own new course of study this fall. "We felt the need to revise, update and integrate our courses so they would mesh better with the changes to the school-wide core," said Barney Turnock, MD, MPH, clinical professor of community health sciences who is retiring this summer after 26 years.

By establishing new course and credit hour requirements, CHS is revising the MPH concentration in community health sciences, including; the online version of this concentration, MPH concentration in maternal and child health, and MPH concentration in maternal and child health epidemiology. The time was right to update, change and modernize the school's teachings and fill in any gaps identified over the years. "It's been a while since we changed our courses in community health sciences and we wanted to keep them up-to-date, challenging and relevant," Dr. Turnock said.

Specifically, the new curriculum will consolidate the current five required courses into three larger courses. The new focus

will include community health assessment, designing and implementing evaluations and interventions, and professional development. These new foci are critical because they reflect the general skills that public health professionals use daily. The skills are applied to different health problems in different populations locally, nationally and worldwide. The knowledge gained will help students design and tailor interventions to better meet the needs of specific communities or populations whether geared toward childhood obesity or violence in the community.

Currently, the CHS division attracts the largest number of MPH candidates at the School of Public Health. The school draws a large range of students who will graduate from the university and go out into a variety of job situations locally, nationally and internationally to deal with a plethora of scenarios. "Here (with the new curriculum) are skills they can utilize and adapt to those different job settings that they will find themselves in in the future... a set of skills that will last for a lifetime," he said.

The new curriculum will focus on effective communication skills needed to assess health needs and develop evidence-based interventions regardless of what issues they deal with in their lives as public health professionals. "Public health professionals need to communicate effectively orally and in



"The most wonderful part of my career has been the students you affect in the classroom," Dr. Turnock said.

writing and be able to take advantage of advancements in social media," Dr. Turnock said.

Basic skills at the heart of the public health practice include: applying information, getting information, building partnerships, coalitions and working with others to solve problems - the hallmark of the public health practice. Because the new curriculum requires fewer courses, Dr. Turnock explained, students will benefit further by having the opportunity to take additional courses in a specialization of their choice.

Jesus Ramirez-Valles, PhD, MPH, the director of the community health sciences division, said with the new curriculum's focus on knowledge integration, students will learn the foundations of CHS by "synthesizing and practicing." "As professionals, then, they will be able to see the connections among the different parts of public health and how they affect each other," said Dr. Ramirez-Valles, who has taught at the school for 19 years and teaches community organizing for health and queer public health. "At the same time, they will be able to approach public health problems using a variety of lenses and tools."

Instead of providing students with five different (yet related) content areas in five different courses, Dr. Ramirez-Valles said the curriculum now will integrate knowledge and skills that are the foundation for CHS in three courses: assessing, promoting and improving community health; evidence-informed community health interventions; and professional development in public health practice.

A significant piece of the new curriculum, he said, are the integration and multi-disciplinary features. "We also bring a new and exciting course on professional development which will provide students the tools to succeed in the workplace and become leaders in public health," Dr. Ramirez-Valles said.

Dr. Ramirez-Valles reflected on Dr. Turnock's upcoming retirement, calling him an inspiring leader and wonderful colleague and mentor. "Barney is part of the history of public health at the University of Illinois, at UIC, and in Chicago," he said. "He has touched the lives and careers of many of us." ●

## Reflecting on the Past and Welcoming the Future

Looking forward, Dr. Turnock reflects there has been a shift in the approach to public health that will likely continue due to such events such as terrorist threats and natural disasters. "There is a whole new array of health issues that have taken on a public health aspect like violence, childhood obesity, mental health..." he said. "We have moved away from infectious and chronic diseases to more socially based influences on health. The focus now is on things that influence health beyond biology."



Dr. Barney Turnock

This new array of health issues makes it difficult to predict the future focus of public health. "As the whole world gets access to information about problems and issues and what is being done, this tends to raise expectations in the public for responses to these issues," he said. "That will only continue well into the future."

He does believe, however, more access to information will create more of an interest in social determinants of health. Where and how people live, social class and the distribution of wealth will impact public health. This, he said, will receive more attention in terms of public health. "The next frontier is (a greater emphasis on) the social determinants of health, meaning income, education; all of those things have a great influence on people's health in addition to biology and the physical environment," he said.

As Dr. Turnock considers leaving the academic world, he is reminded of the thousands of students with whom he has connected and molded who today are out serving throughout the world. "Now they are colleagues and friends," he said. "So many are out doing amazing work. The most wonderful part of my career has been the students you affect in the classroom or online. Every year there is a new group and you set them out on their pathway to become solid public health professionals. That's how professors and instructors impact the world... through the students they influence."

So as his career comes to a close what is on the professor's syllabus? "I'm not going to work," he said turning his thoughts to his wife Colleen of 43 years, five sons and five grandchildren. "I'm going to focus more on family. It's time to move on, it's the season to move in a different direction."



# One of a Kind Program Addresses Hazards in the Arts Industry

By Sonya Booth

Miners and factory workers aren't the only ones whose jobs expose them to toxic metals, dangerous equipment and unsafe conditions. People in the arts — from sculptors, painters, musicians and dancers to costumers, library archivists and museum conservators — also work in hazardous situations, often without the necessary health and safety training.

"It makes for a dangerous mix," says Dr. David Hinkamp, MD, MPH, co-director of the Health in the Arts Program in the UIC School of Public Health. "Every health hazard we see in the arts is well known in industry. The difference is, in industry there are regulations about precautions and training. In the arts, you're on your own."



Dr. Katherine Duvall

The Health in the Arts program, founded in 1999 in the school's Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Division, is the only public health program in the world devoted to preventing illness and injury in the arts, Dr. Hinkamp says.

Treatment is offered through UIC's Occupational Medicine Clinic, where Health in the Arts Program co-director Dr. Katherine Duvall is an attending physician, and by referral to other specialists. But "from the public health point of view, that's the opposite end to start at," Dr. Hinkamp says.

To achieve the primary goal — prevention — Dr. Hinkamp works with a wide range of institutions, including the Smithsonian Institution, Field Museum, Goodman Theatre, School of the Art Institute and Jazz Institute of Chicago.

He spreads the word to arts and health professionals by speaking to groups like Arts Alliance Illinois, the Chicago Medical Association and the American Institute for Conservation



Dr. Gil Munoz consulting with the principle dancer and the medical staff at the National Ballet of Cuba in Havana, Cuba.

of Historic and Artistic Works, and serves as a board member of the Performing Arts Medicine Association.

An online library of useful health and safety resources for artists is available at the Health in the Arts website, [uic.edu/sph/glakes/harts/](http://uic.edu/sph/glakes/harts/). "The Health in the Arts Program is a tremendous resource for the arts communities around the world and a distinctive component of the UIC School of Public Health," says Steve Everett, dean of UIC's College of Architecture, Design and the Arts.

The program expanded to Cuba in 2006. With the Performing Arts Medicine Association as co-sponsor, Dr. Hinkamp leads a group on an annual trip to Havana to learn more about the country's health and arts communities.

Dr. Hinkamp and Dr. Gilberto Munoz, physician and faculty member in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, are the U.S. organizers for the first International Congress on Diseases and Rehabilitation of Professionals in the Arts, to be held this summer in Havana. "We have strong relations with outstanding members of the arts communities in Cuba," including the Buena Vista Social Club musical group and National Ballet of Cuba, Dr. Hinkamp says. "This has made our trips exciting from both cultural and health care perspectives."

Educating medical residents and public health students is another aspect of the Health in the Arts Program. Besides lectures and field trips, students conduct research on topics like injuries in Afro-Caribbean dance or arsenic exposure for museum workers. For one project, students developed safety precautions for Lyric Opera performers in a production that required them to stay hidden in coffins before emerging onstage.

Drs. Hinkamp and Duvall came to the idea for the Health in the Arts Program from slightly different directions. Dr. Hinkamp, who plays the saxophone and flute, had worked on health care projects for local blues and jazz musicians. Dr. Duvall, who studied ballet for many years, treated performing artists in the Occupational Health Clinic. "We thought we should be providing services for people in all the arts," Dr. Hinkamp says. "They have a lot in common. Many of them don't have health insurance. They often work alone or in small groups. They don't have resources for finding out about health and safety issues that result from their work."

continued on next page...

AT LEFT Dr. Dave Hinkamp and the UIC Health in the Arts group discuss dancers' health concerns with members of 'Litz Alfonso Dance Cuba' in Havana.

## Who protects the protectors?

It's not just artists who encounter hazardous materials. The museum professionals who protect art and artifacts are also at risk for exposure to arsenic, mercury, inhaled particles and other dangerous substances, Dr. Hinkamp says. The Health in the Arts Program collaborates with experts like Kathryn Makos (MPH '83), long-time senior industrial hygienist at the Smithsonian Institution, to raise awareness among museum staff, public health professions and health practitioners.

Conservation, treatment and storage of art items can expose museum staff to dangers like radioactive isotopes, naphthalene and formaldehyde, Ms. Makos says. Hazards also exist in the workshops where exhibits are built. "Museums and cultural institutions are well below the public health radar screen," says Ms. Makos, who retired from the Smithsonian in 2013 and is now research collaborator at the National Museum of Natural History.

"Yet their collections and professional staff are hidden in plain sight: art galleries, archives, botanical gardens, Park Service nature centers and museums, as well as university teaching and research collections."



Dr. Dave Hinkamp reviewing safety issues with Trevor Martin, Director of Exhibitions at a student installation at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Ms. Makos and Dr. Hinkamp were among the co-editors of "Health and Safety for Museum Professionals" (2011, AIC and Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections). They are among co-authors of the upcoming "Preventive Conservation: Approaches to Collection Storage" (Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, AIC and Smithsonian Institution). "It's time to educate our professions about these hidden hazards," Ms. Makos says.

For more information about the Health in the Arts Program, visit [uic.edu/sph/glakes/harts/](http://uic.edu/sph/glakes/harts/). For more information about the International Congress on Diseases and Rehabilitation of Professionals in Arts, visit [saludartehabana.com](http://saludartehabana.com).

...continued from previous page

One of the program's first steps was a conference on health and safety in the arts. "What came out of the conference, more than anything, was a need for knowledge about hazards in the arts and how to prevent them," Dr. Duvall says.

Since then, the program has done conferences and presentations to museum and gallery workers, theater and art teachers. Outreach to teachers, community arts groups and amateur artists is especially important because they don't have the safety resources of larger institutions, she explains.

Dr. Duvall says performing artists tend to have injuries from overuse, like tendonitis, while visual artists sometimes have respiratory problems from exposure to toxic chemicals. "With artists, getting them to stop or change what they're doing can be really difficult," she says.

There's a name for this mindset, Dr. Hinkamp says: the show-must-go-on syndrome. "People will ignore their symptoms and ignore safety features they know should be used. People will also just push on through. The result can be career-threatening;



Stained glass artist soldering lead during UIC Health in the Arts evaluation of lead exposures.

it can be life-threatening." When treating artists, compromise is key, Dr. Duvall says. If they're not open to the first recommendations for treatment, "You have to say, 'how can we work this out?' You have to be flexible." ●

## Backstage Safety at the Goodman Theatre

The Health in the Arts Program has a long relationship with the award-winning Goodman Theatre, which Dr. Hinkamp praises as "leaders in health and safety."

The Goodman has up to 90 people working in its costume shop at the theater in downtown Chicago and a scene studio on the West Side. "Our relationship with Dr. Hinkamp is invaluable," says Matthew Chandler, associate production manager. "He helps us create policies to avoid accidental injuries and figure out what potential hazards could emerge."

These potential hazards are many, from paints to costume dyes. "Everything we do is customized to that show," Mr. Chandler says. "We're not an industrial application, where once you've solved the problem, you've solved it. We cycle (shows) every 10 weeks. We use materials in a way that isn't primary, so we need to be aware of all the hazards our employees are exposed to."

Dr. Hinkamp helped facilitate a study on noise exposure for workers in the Goodman scene shop, led by Steven Lacey, (PhD '02), a former UIC faculty member who is now chair of environmental health science at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. "Working with Dr. Hinkamp is great because he's not just reacting to problems we bring him, he comes to us and says, 'What kind of things can we work on to make it better?'" Mr. Chandler says. ●

Goodman Theatre scenery shop during UIC Health in the Arts evaluation of noise exposures.



## Promoting Global Co-learning to Improve Health Care

During the past several months, the UIC School of Public Health and its Global Health Program have hosted delegations from Japan, Ukraine, Middle East and North Africa. The goal of these visits is to foster an information exchange and to learn from one another, said Judith Levy, interim director of the global health program and associate professor of health policy and administration.

### Ukraine

In October 2015, UIC SPH hosted a day of scientific exchanges with six representatives from AIDS nongovernment organizations (NGOs) in Ukraine led by Dr. Dan Hryhorczuk, director of UIC's Center for Global Health, and sponsored by the Open World/Chicago Sister Cities Program. The Open



Ron Hershow, director of the division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, gives a presentation to the delegation from Ukraine.

World Program is funded by the United States Congress and is managed by the Open World Leadership Center. Through delegates' travel to the U.S., the program aims to increase mutual understanding between the United States and several countries of Eurasia. Visits by delegations like this also provide exposure to U.S. democratic institutions, the U.S. political system, and public-private partnerships and inter-relationships. "We're hoping this visit also forms the basis for a continuing dialogue for future cooperation," said Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf, who gave welcoming remarks when the delegation arrived. The day's scientific program featured an overview of HIV in Ukraine delivered by the delegates along with a discussion of their organizations' efforts to intervene. A sampling of UIC SPH research on HIV followed presented by Drs. Ron Hershow, Judith Levy, Janet Lin, Irina Dardynskaia, and Lawrence Ouellet. A visit to a field station of the Community Outreach Intervention Projects capped off the afternoon. The day was co-hosted by the SPH Division of Epidemiology/Biostatistics, Project Heal, the Fogarty AIDS International Training and Research Program at UIC, and the SPH Global Health Program

### Japan

As home of the oldest population in the world, Japan faces the challenge of containing health care costs while improving health care access and quality, just as the United States and

other countries do. Naoko Muramatsu, associate professor of the Community Health Sciences Division and Fellow of the Institute for Health Research and Policy (IHRP), was a recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship 28 years ago. The Fulbright Scholarship initiated Dr. Muramatsu's career to examine the U.S. health and long-term care systems in comparison with their counterparts in Japan. Her current research aims to improve the quality of home and community-based services for diverse populations aging with disabilities by partnering with direct care providers and community-based organizations. In January, an e-mail from a former Fulbright staff person led Dr. Muramatsu to arrange a New Voices from Japan (NVJ) delegation to visit UIC. The NVJ Program, funded by Sasakawa Peace Foundation and sponsored by the Social Science Research Council, aims to cultivate a new generation of Japanese scholars and to promote US-Japan partnerships.



Judith Levy, interim director of the Global Health Program, speaks to the delegation from the Middle East and North Africa.

The NVJ event featured a seminar, "The Paradoxes of Japanese Health Insurance: Can Too Much of a Good Thing Block Medical Innovation?" by Dr. Hiromi Saito, Associate Professor of Economics at Chiba University, Japan. Japan's universal health insurance system offers equitable access to health care, but it can be a barrier for medical innovation. Dr. Saito discussed this paradox with a campus-wide audience as part of the NVJ's 10-day dialogue tour in three U.S. cities.

### Middle East and North Africa

"In March 2016, we had the pleasure of hosting a delegation of 10 doctors, researchers and health officials from across the Middle East and North Africa through WorldChicago and the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program," Dr. Levy explained. Alumni of this highly-selective program include 35 current and 300 former Chiefs of State or Heads of Government. Delegation members discussed challenges and possible collaborations in treating chronic and non-communicable diseases. "The visitors also wanted to learn how our Global Health Program, in concert with the school's academic units, trains students to apply health prevention and intervention models in global settings," she said. Plans are now underway for forging future faculty/student exchanges with the government programs and universities in the seven countries represented by the delegates. ●



Naoko Muramatsu (second from right) is joined by Lisa Powell, director of the division of Health Policy and Administration (third from right) and Ce Shang, a health economist at UIC's Institute for Health Research and Policy (second from left) and members of the New Voices delegation from Japan.

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

## 1. CHICAGO

Zabin Patel, MPH candidate in epidemiology, participated in a global health poster session where she presented on a community sanitation program in Indonesia. The session was part of the Global Health Successes course, which takes a systematic approach to investigating programmatic efforts that successfully address global health challenges.



Zabin S. Patel

## 2. SENEGAL

Elly De Jesus, MPH candidate in health policy and administration, is participating in the Peace Corps Master's International Program pilot program in Senegal. In March 2015, she deployed for her 27 month assignment where she will be working on a UIC sponsored cervical cancer prevention project at her Peace Corps site.



Elly De Jesus, second from right.

## 3. UGANDA

Jessica Wilson, MPH candidate in community health sciences, will work on two women's health programs in Masaka, Uganda, in collaboration with three organizations: Microfinancing Partners in Africa, Caritas Masaka Diocese Development Organization, and Kitovu Hospital. She will be a part of a team that's developing and implementing a new health education and women's empowerment program called The Joy of a Healthy Pregnancy and Birth.

## 4. CHINA

Cynthia Cordova-Orellana, PhD candidate in environmental and occupational health sciences, presented her research at the 17th Global Emissions Initiative Conference in Beijing, China in November 2015. Her research focuses on the spatial distribution of global air pollution emissions for greenhouse gases and implications of climate change. Cynthia's trip was made possible through the generosity of the Warren Lavey and Dr. Holly Rosencranz Climate Change Impact Award.



Cynthia Cordova Orellana

## 5. COLOMBIA

After spending six months at UIC SPH as a Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Gloria Molina returned to her home institution of University de Antioquia in Medellin, Colombia, in February 2016. Her project at UIC was titled "Use of Mixed Methods Approaches to Analyze and Evaluate Public Health Programs and Policies." This summer, MPH candidate in epidemiology, Katharyn Kryda, will conduct a field experience in Colombia focusing on the country's infrastructure and road safety issues.



Katie Kryda

## 2016 Douglas Passaro Global Horizons Scholarship Awardees

Named in memory of Dr. Douglas Passaro, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Attending Physician in Infectious Diseases at the UIC Hospital from 2001-2005, this award supports graduate students for health-related, hands-on field experiences to carry on the legacy of Doug's work and passion for global health.



Terry and Lanny Passaro join the 2016 Passaro Scholarship awardees. From left to right: Nicole Laramée, Peggy Sue Batterton, Kathryn Vivirito, Jenny Guadamuz, and Mary Otoo

**NAME** Kathryn Vivirito, MPH candidate in Epidemiology

**LOCATION** Kenya

**PROJECT** Kathryn will be working on an ongoing One Health project to explore the health outcomes of families and children related to livestock ownership and socioeconomic status.

**NAME** Jenny Guadamuz, MS candidate in Health Policy and Administration

**LOCATION** Jordan

**PROJECT** Jenny will conduct field research focusing on the utilization of cardiovascular medications in Palestine refugee camps. The objective of the project is to examine the prescribing patterns of antihypertensive medications throughout various United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) refugee populations.

**NAME** Nicole Laramée, MPH candidate in Health Policy and Administration

**LOCATION** Haiti

**PROJECT** Nicole will be working on the scale-up process of a community-based disaster risk reduction training program. The program seeks to build local capacity and engage community members at the grassroots level, thereby introducing sustainability and services which can be better targeted and tailored towards local needs.

**NAME** Peggy Sue Batterton, MPH candidate in Epidemiology

**LOCATION** Kenya

**PROJECT** Peggy Sue will work on an ongoing project through UIC that focuses on emergency medicine capacity-building and will conduct research on the HIV testing and care continuum.

**NAME** Mary Otoo, MPH candidate in Epidemiology and Biostatistics

**LOCATION** Ghana

**PROJECT** Mary will be volunteering with Unite for Sight where she will work with doctors in rural communities to provide free vision care and eye restoring surgeries. She will also work on a research study that characterizes maternal perceptions on child vision care.

## Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

### AVATAR APP USED TO PROMOTE KNOWLEDGE OF HIV

Dr. Mark Dworkin is a professor of epidemiology and the associate director of epidemiology. His most recent research focus is on antiretroviral medication adherence among persons living with HIV. Optimal adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) carries important benefits because it substantially reduces the amount of virus in the body. Control of viral replication leads to personal health benefits including decreased morbidity and mortality and reduced likelihood of the emergence of a resistant strain. In addition, population benefits include reduced likelihood of transmission to others.

Dr. Dworkin initially explored ART adherence in a study of twenty-five persons living with HIV attending a clinic in Hyderabad, India in 2009 working with a UIC epidemiology student and the non-government organization (NGO) SHARE India. In 2012, a follow-up study was performed of 200 persons living with HIV recruited from nine outpatient facilities in Hyderabad which revealed that female sex workers were at significantly increased risk for non-adherence to ART. Dr. Dworkin recently returned from a trip to Hyderabad where he met with HIV-infected and non-infected female sex workers to

explore their personal issues with commercial sex work, stigma, HIV prevention, and ART adherence. Dr. Dworkin is currently drafting a proposal to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop an ART adherence intervention in female sex workers in Hyderabad. He is collaborating with UIC professor Wayne Wiebel and associate professor Judith Levy.

In 2015, Dr. Dworkin received funding from NIH to conduct the formative research needed to develop an Avatar-based mobile phone application that seeks to improve the proportion of young African American men who have sex with men (AAMSM) who are retained in care, adhering to antiretroviral medication, and virally suppressed. The use of an Avatar as a patient health concierge may increase knowledge of HIV disease, increase self-efficacy, motivate improvement in retention in care and medication adherence, and explain and illustrate behavioral skills resulting in behaviors that lead to viral suppression. Dr. Dworkin is presently working with Dr. Sangyoon Lee of Connecticut College to develop the app for a pilot test later this year. Four focus groups have been held that have shaped the app design and the Avatar's dialogue. To date, acceptability of the avatar concept was universal among participants. Privacy concerns were expressed that reflected substantial encroachment of stigma in their lives. Participants encouraged motivational language regarding dealing with social isolation.



## Division of Community Health Sciences

### RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND WOMEN'S HEALTH

Dr. Alisa Velonis is an assistant professor of community health sciences, and a faculty member with the Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health. Her research focuses on intimate partner violence (IPV) and its intersection with gender, health and structural inequities. With nearly two decades of applied academic, teaching, and professional public health experience, Dr. Velonis recognized early in her career that adequately addressing women's health means addressing the violence inherent in many women's lives, a theme that remains at the core of her work.

Before coming to UIC in 2015, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship with the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, Ontario. As part of this work, she explored the intersection between IPV, poverty, housing instability, and women's health, finding that social and structural factors (such as a lack of safe, affordable housing or an adequate minimum wage) synergistically influence partner violence and women's decision-making. Her current research aims to expand on this by identifying and explaining this trajectory between social inequities and the factors that reinforce them.

Having witnessed the need for more effective and nuanced IPV prevention approaches, Dr. Velonis used a combination of methods to examine both men's and women's experiences with IPV in heterosexual relationships. Her findings suggest that IPV is not a single phenomenon, but encompasses a multitude of characteristics, depending on the dynamic of control and

coercion between partners. While her work indicates a potential relationship between gender and experiences with coercive relationships, an absence of qualitative information from "everyday" men hinders our ability to draw firm conclusions and led the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to fund an international project she is leading to identify the barriers and facilitators to involving men in IPV research.

A practitioner at heart, Dr. Velonis is committed to using evidence-based tools to translate knowledge and improve clinical interventions around partner violence. For example, although evidence shows that routinely screening women for IPV in health care settings helps women whom are struggling with violence connect with necessary support and resources, few clinical practices do this consistently or effectively. Currently, Dr. Velonis is a co-investigator on a project she helped to design using implementation science to integrate a sustainable, universal, and technology-enhanced IPV screening program in outpatient settings in Toronto. As the project takes off, Dr. Velonis hopes to adapt the lessons the team learns from this initiative and scale up the project to additional sites, including some in Chicago.



## Division of Health Policy and Administration

### FACTORS THAT MAKE A HEALTHY WORKPLACE

Dr. Emily Stiehl is a clinical assistant professor of health policy and administration and a member of the Workplace Health Research Network, a thematic research network of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Prevention Research Centers (PRCs) for preventing and controlling chronic diseases. Her research examines the factors that influence the health and wellness of front-line caregivers, who, despite receiving low wages, are expected to deliver high-quality care to others.

Dr. Stiehl received a PhD in organizational behavior. Her initial work examined how a focus on low-wage, front-line workers can influence our theories about workplace behaviors, like turnover or helping others. Her work highlights the importance of the work context for understanding how workers behave. In a study of certified nursing assistant (CNA) turnover, Dr. Stiehl and her colleagues found that CNAs often engage in lateral turnover (remaining CNAs but changing organizations, as opposed to vertical turnover to advance their careers). They identified two groups: 1) switchers, who cite better opportunities and 2) leavers,



who cite physical injury as the primary impetus for turnover. Wages did not have a significant effect on turnover. In fact, switchers, who cited better opportunities as a reason for leaving, received lower average wages than their colleagues who stayed over the course of a year.

More recently, Dr. Stiehl has been examining factors that influence health and wellness at work. Extending the research on physical injury, she conducted focus groups with CNAs to learn more about how physical injuries occur on the job and the tactics CNAs use to avoid them. These tactics vary from building relationships with others (e.g., coworkers or patients), to employing proper technique when lifting residents, to setting boundaries around what they were willing to do, and finally to understanding safe practices for using equipment or safely working with patients. As part of the workplace health research network, Dr. Stiehl has also been working with researchers from UIC and six other institutions across the nation to study the availability of and access to workplace health promotion programs among workers who are not traditional, full-time employees.

Dr. Stiehl is excited to continue working on understanding the health needs of this growing group of workers, who are ultimately responsible for interacting with external stakeholders to create value. She is building relationships with community organizations to enhance our understanding of the unique factors influencing employee health, and the interventions that can be developed to improve their health and wellness.

## Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

### HARMFUL EXPOSURES TO CHILDBEARING WOMEN

As a family physician in the 1990's, Dr. Susan Buchanan, clinical associate professor of environmental and occupational health sciences, practiced at a federally funded community health center where the majority of her patients were from traditionally underserved populations. After obtaining her MPH in environmental and occupational health sciences at UIC in 2002, it was a natural transition to research the health risks of vulnerable populations. Her first investigations involved surveys of Latino street corner day laborers with professor Leslie Nickels in collaboration with Latino Union Workers' Center. Their publication was one of the first to focus on health hazards among this precarious worker population.

Dr. Buchanan's more recent research has focused on the environmental exposures among women of childbearing age. In an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funded project, she worked with Jerry Stapleton and Philip Bashook in the UIC Distance Education Department to create on-line educational modules for prenatal providers on the risks and benefits of fish consumption during pregnancy. These modules were designed specifically to promote behavior change in clinical practice so that prenatal providers screen and advise their patients on fish consumption. Currently, Dr. Buchanan is completing an EPA-funded project in which prenatal providers ask their pregnant patients a screening question about fish consumption frequency and then add a blood test for total mercury to the prenatal lab panel. She hopes this will serve as a first step in determining whether prenatal providers should routinely perform

targeted screening of their patients with blood mercury levels.

After publishing two papers with UIC associate professor Mary Turyk on mercury exposure via fish consumption among Asians, they successfully applied for funding from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for a five-year grant entitled "Promoting Healthy Seafood Choices in Asian Communities." The first stage of the study will assess fish consumption practices among three Asian groups in Chicago: Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean. They will also analyze fish for mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and beneficial omega-3 fatty acids. The second stage involves creating, implementing, and evaluating a text-messaging intervention among Asian women of childbearing age. The text messages will be tailored to participants' consumption and exposure risk derived from the first stage of the project. Drs. Buchanan and Turyk are working with several community-based organizations in Chicago including the Midwest Asian Health Association, Vietnamese Association of Illinois, and Hanul Family Alliance. They hope that this project will decrease exposure to contaminants while maintaining or improving consumption of healthy nutrients from fish. ●



## Taking a Transdisciplinary Approach to Healthy Aging

By Katie McGrath

One of four strategic priorities laid out by UIC Chancellor Michael Amiridis is to increase UIC's national and international reputation for research by building on its strengths in areas including: the human brain, functional and regenerative materials, solutions for community disparities in health, education and violence prevention, and urban infrastructure and the environment.

The Center for Research on Health and Aging, housed in the Institute for Health Research and Policy (administered through the School of Public Health), has a large role to play in this area, according to Jun Ma, MD, PhD, professor of health policy and administration and Co-Director of the Center.

"The goal... is to take healthy aging research at UIC to become within the top three programs nationally, and certainly gain greater international visibility," Dr. Ma stated.

Dr. Ma came on board in August 2015 in the Lead Position as part of former UIC Chancellor Paula Allen-Meares' Cluster Initiative to Increase Diversity and the Interdisciplinary Culture at UIC. The remaining four positions in the Cluster on Health Promotion for Racially and Ethnically Diverse Older Adults will include a senior faculty member in Disability and Human Development and three junior faculty for Community



Health Sciences, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy. While this infrastructure will certainly allow for interdisciplinary research, Dr. Ma is also an advocate for transdisciplinary research.

"To be truly transdisciplinary,

you need to really allow yourself to step out of your 'comfort zone' and try to learn as much as you can from experts in other disciplines, and think about new, transformative approaches that will integrate methods and strategies from two or more disciplines," explained Dr. Ma.

While this is a departure from the traditional discipline-centric research mentality, Dr. Ma believes it is more likely to inspire innovation. "We really need to be brave in a way, be creative and allow boundaries to be blurred and integrated. That's how you get new discoveries."

In her short time at UIC, Dr. Ma has brought faculty together from multiple colleges on two major grants recently submitted to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). She also made important contributions to the NIH Precision Medicine Initiative Cohort

Program grant submitted by UIC in collaboration with Northwestern University and the University of Chicago. She is confident that once the other Cluster faculty members are in place, their presence will also be felt campus-wide. "The fact that each of the five cluster hire faculty members come from a different discipline [means] each of us will then be the voice for healthy aging research on campus," she said.

Also integral to the research approach of the Center is a life-course perspective to aging, which provides the opportunity for a wide variety of applicable and potentially impactful research.

"It's definitely important to study mid-life and older adults to understand how to better care for them, how we better serve them in the community and in different contexts. At the same time, we need to start young when we think about aging. Some risk factors are already being formed in infancy and toddlers younger than two years of age. That broad context speaks to the endless possibilities of significant and innovative research questions we can investigate and generate new findings for," Dr. Ma said.

Furthermore, Dr. Ma expects that this perspective will engage diverse stakeholders within the community, which is one of the core values that drew her to the School of Public Health.

"Being in the School of Public Health, we have such a responsibility to engage our communities, engage our partners in different sectors, and this may be a channel to bring different stakeholders together and understand their needs," she said.

Fortunately, the Center, which has been in operation for nearly twenty years, already has a solid foundation and reputation within the community to build upon.

"We have really strong community partnerships that we value tremendously, and we'd never be able to accomplish our mission without those partnerships," said Dr. Susan L. Hughes, professor of community health sciences and Co-Director of the Center. These community partners are mostly focused on the South and West Sides and include 12 Chicago senior centers, the Chicago Park District and a number of African American churches, among others.

These partnerships, among others, demonstrate the commitment of the Center to the community and the need to "ground yourself at home," as Dr. Ma referred to it. She further explained that this means using the Center to foster more in-depth and diverse collaborations with faculty, as well as a "hub" to train the next generation of researchers. She went on to conclude, "I believe that for established scientists, mentoring of emerging researchers is not a choice but an obligation – and a privilege. Through effective research mentoring, science advances and lives on. The Center is committed to embedding this philosophy in its culture." ●

**"The goal is to take healthy aging research at UIC to become within the top three programs nationally, and certainly gain greater international visibility."**

## Establishing a Legacy for the "Heart and Soul" of the School of Public Health

**Curtisteen Steward, former associate dean of finance and resource planning in the School of Public Health, wore many hats during her time. Ms. Steward, who retired in November 2011, worked at UIC for nearly 35 years, including 20 years in the School of Public Health.**

Ms. Steward helped nurture the school's Community Outreach Intervention Project and the Cure Violence program. After retirement, she continued to work part-time as deputy director in the office of the dean. "Curt was, for a long time, the heart and soul of the School of Public Health and the motor that made all things run," said dean Paul Brandt-Rauf. Which is why so many people mourned her passing away last spring of lung cancer.



Ms. Steward was honored in 2003 with Archbishop Francis George, left, for her work to support the CeaseFire violence prevention program headed by Gary Slutkin, right.

"She opened her heart to all kinds of people, and many of us were fortunate to be part of her extended family," said Jaclyn Finch, the school's associate dean for resource and allocation planning, who worked closely with Ms. Steward for many years. "She never said 'You can't do it,' but would figure out a way to do whatever it is you asked her to do."

Ms. Steward was instrumental in establishing the internationally known Cure Violence program in the late 1990s. "She converted the impossible to the possible, the hard to done," said Gary Slutkin, executive director and founder of Cure Violence.

"Curt helped pave the way to get CeaseFire (the program's original name) off the ground by helping guide things through all the administrative processes that needed to happen so that I could focus on doing my work," Dr. Slutkin said. "Without her, we wouldn't be operating in 60 communities and 25 major cities today. She put her mind, heart and energy into making things work." Cure Violence honored Ms. Steward and Archbishop

Francis George, the program's honorary chair, in 2003 for continued commitment and service to the initiative to reduce violence in Chicago neighborhoods.

In honor of the one-year anniversary of her death, faculty, staff and friends of the school have come together to establish the Curtisteen Steward Memorial Scholarship Fund. "It is entirely fitting that this fund be established in memory and recognition of one who gave so selflessly of her time and tremendous talents to the School of Public Health. It is appropriate that the "heart and soul" of SPH be honored in a way that will continue to support the heart and soul of the school: students, faculty and programs," said Tamara Michel Josserand, Assistant Dean for Advancement.

Ms. Steward joined UIC in 1980 as an administrative assistant in the Office of Access and Equity, then worked in the College of Medicine and Office of the Chancellor. She was a volunteer dispute resolution mediator in the Office of Access and Equity and continued to attend quarterly mediators' meetings after she retired. She was also instrumental in launching and raising the profile of two campus groups, the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Blacks and the Chancellors Committee on the Status of Women.

"She was one of the most candid and fearless mediators I've ever had," said Caryn Bills-Wendt, associate chancellor and director of access and equity. "She would take on any kind



Ms. Steward, center, with members of her family.

of problem, and could always reach a solution quickly because of her knowledge of campus HR processes and her people skills."

For more information about how to support the Curtisteen Steward Memorial Scholarship Fund, contact the Office of Advancement at 312-355-3027 or SPHadvancement@uic.edu. ●

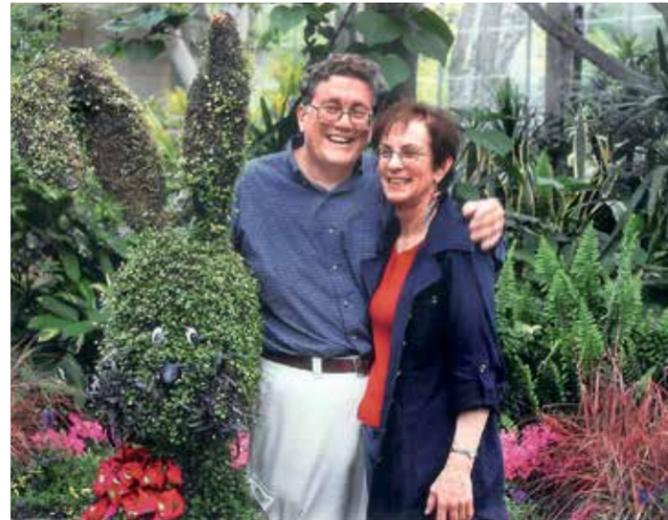
# An Incredible Life Serving the Public and Giving Back

After completing an undergraduate science degree in Florida and working summers at the Manatee Reservoir water treatment plant as a field sampler and lab analyst, Robert Kay, DrPH, (MPH '78) was hired as a Physical Scientist in 1971 by the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration in Chicago. This agency became the new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) only weeks after Dr. Kay started, and he began evaluating proposed Federally funded or permitted projects as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). While the EPA considered the impacts on both health and environment, Dr. Kay said he decided more attention needed to be given to assessing and protecting human health from the impact of these projects. He thus pursued his MPH degree at UIC SPH while continuing to work full-time.

"The government agreed to pay for my MPH, but I had to make up the hours I spent at school," he said. "It was hard. I would take one or two classes each semester, so it took several years to get through it all." Hard, but definitely worth it, says Dr. Kay. Because he credits UIC for equipping him with the tools and skills needed to better protect public health, he and his wife, Linda, will be leaving a generous planned gift to provide for public health scholarships.

While pursuing his MPH degree, Dr. Kay conducted an independent study addressing the health impact of chlorinated and non-chlorinated sewage wastewater discharges upon downstream waters and public usage of these waters. He was asked to present his study at a state-wide conference where the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was also presenting its views. Dr. Kay's efforts caught the attention of the CDC and in early 1979, he was offered an Environmental Health Scientist position. After working with the CDC for five years focusing on NEPA, Dr. Kay was asked if he would move to the newly formed Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) because they needed someone with his multi-disciplinary public health skills. ATSDR was tasked with evaluating the public health impact of hazardous waste sites all over the U.S., to work closely with EPA in identifying potentially exposed populations, and to prioritize which sites needed special timing and measures to protect populations at current or future health risk.

Dr. Kay went on to pursue a doctorate degree and attended The Johns Hopkins University as a Kellogg Fellow to obtain a his DrPH in public health policy and management. For his



Bob and Linda Kay

dissertation thesis, he conducted a national study on house fires. After returning to ATSDR, he became a training manager, developing and conducting courses for health assessors in ATSDR, CDC, and 33 cooperative agreement states. In addition, he led training teams in many different countries that needed help with their hazardous wastes sites and spills including Mexico, Spain, Portugal, and Taiwan.

Dr. Kay retired in 2009, after 38 years of Federal service. He says that "Every day is a Saturday." That does not mean that this ever-inquisitive man and his wife have slowed down one bit. He started his own on-line book store, called Bob's Best Books and Linda works with Night Light's Kids' Club and Good News Club mentoring and reading with grade school children.

Dr. Kay's love of school is one of the reasons that he and Linda have decided to leave planned gifts to all of the schools they attended. They hope their gifts will be used for students who choose to study at the school, as opposed to on-line. "I think they would definitely get a lot more out of the program," he said, pointing to the need for community involvement when getting an MPH. "If someone is only getting an on-line view, they are not getting their feet wet."

And while the couple is generously donating to several institutions, Dr. Kay admits to an extra affinity for UIC. "I have a special feeling for UIC because they were the first to provide me with the skills and knowledge needed to protect public health," he said. ●



The UIC School of Public Health has been supported 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 prepare our students for success. Membership in the Founders Circle recognizes donors who make annual gifts of \$500 or more. Benefits of membership include:

- Exclusive invitations to Founders Circle receptions
- Special communications from Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf
- Invitation to An Evening With Legacies and Leaders dinner

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.



Founders Circle and Legacy Society Members, March 2015

To learn more about the Founders Circle or Legacy Society, contact the Office of Advancement at [SPHAdvancement@uic.edu](mailto:SPHAdvancement@uic.edu).

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Master of Healthcare Administration program will be celebrating its 10 year anniversary in 2017. Watch for details to come about celebratory events that will be taking place in the coming year. For more information, visit [www.publichealth.uic.edu/mha](http://www.publichealth.uic.edu/mha).



CELEBRATE WITH US!

# Partnership with Skokie Health Department Garnerers Award-Worthy Benefits

By Amanda Marrazzo

From tackling childhood obesity to improving air and water quality, the years-long partnership between Skokie Health Department and the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health (UIC SPH) has garnered award-worthy benefits. For its contributions to the Village since 2010, UIC SPH was honored this year with Skokie's sixth annual Public Health Partners in Excellence Award. Typically, two individuals or entities are recognized for their exceptional assistance to the Village, but this year, because its work has positively impacted such a wide range of areas, UIC SPH is the sole recipient.

The Skokie Health Department has served as a practicum site for UIC SPH Master of Public Health students since 2010. Since the partnership began, 17 students have assisted in various projects that have benefitted both the Village and the students, said Catherine Counard, MD, (MPH '02), Skokie's Director of Health. "In fact, we would be hard pressed to have completed this work without the help of the students," Dr. Counard said.

Village Board of Trustees gave the award at their May 2, 2016 meeting formally recognizing UIC SPH's contributions.

**"A big take away was that it is really possible to integrate academia to help inform and provide resources to plan and complete community projects."**  
 - Tessa Bonney, (MPH '16)

While the partnership assists the Village in meeting various community health needs, it's helping students by providing real world experiences

in public policy. The collaboration further helps students fulfill clinical practicum requirements needed to earn their MPH degrees.

Projects made possible through the partnership include the work of Glenview-based pediatrician and UIC alumna Dr. Leslie Cordes. During her 2014-2015 internship, Dr. Cordes worked with the Skokie Health Department to establish childhood obesity rates in the Village, by collecting and analyzing aggregate data from the health records of more than 2,000 public school students. Of her experience, Dr. Cordes wrote: "As a pediatrician studying public health... I learned that the community approach to reducing the prevalence of childhood obesity must be built on strong partnerships and informed by available evidence." Other projects have included rodent

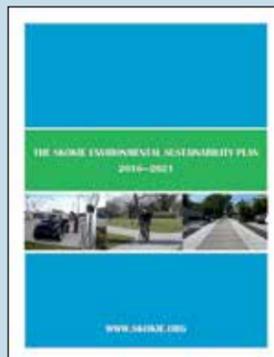
control, increasing access to health care, strengthening the tuberculosis testing program, and completing the state recertification process.

Most recently, UIC SPH students researched similar communities locally and nationally to develop a proposed Skokie Environmental Sustainability Plan. Their recommendations, currently under the Village's review, include:

- ❖ Encouragement of the use of free rain barrels provided by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago to aid in water conservation.
- ❖ Conversion of street and parking lot lighting to LED bulbs to promote energy conservation.
- ❖ Improvement of the Village's bicycle infrastructure.

The environmental policy project was spurred in the spring of 2015 after Dr. Counard gave a lecture to EOHS students at UIC SPH. A student asked why the Village had not developed an environmental health plan and Dr. Counard responded it was because as a "smaller village" they did not have the personpower to do so, recalled Dr. Sherry Brandt-Rauf, research associate professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at UIC SPH.

"I was at the lecture and I said 'I have students!'" reported Dr. Brandt-Rauf. She and her husband Paul Brandt-Rauf, who is the Dean of the UIC SPH and who accepted the award on behalf of the school, are Skokie residents.



UIC SPH students helped to develop the Skokie Environmental Sustainability Plan



Members of the Skokie Health Department presented Dean Brandt-Rauf with the Public Health Partners in Excellence Award on May 2, 2016. Left to right: David Clough, Bruce Jones, Dr. A. Michael Drachler, Chair of the Skokie Board of Health, Claudia Braden (MPH '92), Sherry Brandt-Rauf, Dr. Catherine Counard, Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf, and Susan Reisberg.

She told Dr. Counard that drawing up the proposed plan would be the perfect task for the students in her spring semester seminar in environmental and occupational health policy. "It was like a match made in heaven," Dr. Brandt-Rauf said. "It was a unique sort of marriage of people and resources that we could provide cost-free to the Village of Skokie while fulfilling our mission of teaching students about environment policy - by making environmental policy."

Tessa Bonney, (MPH '16) was one of nine students developing Skokie's environmental plan. "I found that the project was a great way to apply what I'd been learning in school to help find a solution for a nearby community," she said. "A big take away was that it is really possible to integrate academia to help inform and provide resources to plan and complete community projects."

Ms. Bonney, who will continue her education pursuing a PhD at UIC SPH in the division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, said that within one semester, she and her fellow students helped research and organize information relevant to Skokie that could be used to create an appropriate Environmental Action Plan. "Because we worked on such a strict timeline we were able to collect and organize a lot of information from other communities regarding their environmental action plans and initiatives. We were able to make specific recommendations to Skokie stakeholders," she said. "The community members and elected officials were really invested in the project and sought to include them in meetings and discussions about the project and relevant community issues."

"All of the work that we put into researching and preparing suggestions for Skokie were really well received," Ms. Bonney said. "The community stakeholders were transparent about their goals and what they would be able to take on, which was extremely helpful to us."

What Ms. Bonney learned as part of her semester-long involvement in the collaboration likely will influence her life and career, a primary goal of the partnership. "One of the biggest take aways from the experience was the need to balance the desires of community members and elected officials with our research findings regarding best practices for environmental action plans," she said. "I think that the experience working with multiple stakeholders to accomplish a community project will help me in the future." ●



Elizabeth Schmidt, (MPH '15), who was a member of Dr. Brandt-Rauf's Spring 2015 Environmental Policy Seminar class, assisted with Community Flu Shot clinics.

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

**STEPHANIE BARRERA** (MHA '16) accepted a position as Quality Improvement Coordinator at Meridian Health Plan.

**SALLY A. BERKO, RN**, (MSN/MPH '13) recently obtained a position as a nurse consultant with the federal government. She will be working at Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in Baltimore.

Dean of the UIC School of Public Health, **PAUL BRANDT-RAUF, DrPH, MD, ScD**, has been appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to the National Toxicology Program Board of Scientific Counselors.

**DARCI CABEZAS** (MHA '16) is the Marketing Communications Specialist at the University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System.

**JACQUELINE CELLINI** (MPH '11) has been appointed as the Reference and Education Librarian at the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine.

**CYNTHIA CORDOVA**, Master of Science candidate in the division of environmental and occupational health sciences, received the Chicago Consular Corps Scholarship.

**MAJOR DANNY DACEY**, DrPH candidate, was recently promoted to Chief, Public Health Surveillance and Research Branch, United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, Public Health and Preventive Medicine Department, Epidemiology Consult Division. He was also named the 711 Human Performance Wing Field Grade Officer of the Year and the Air Force Material Command Biomedical Science Corp Field Grade Officer of the Year.

Master of Public Health candidate in the division of environmental and occupational health sciences, **ERIC DANGOY**, was selected as a recipient of the Chicago Local Section Scholarship with the American Industrial Hygiene Foundation.

**GERI DONENBERG**, PhD, associate dean for research and professor of medicine, is the recipient of the 2015 UIC Distinguished Researcher in the Clinical Sciences.

**CAMILLE FABIYI** (PhD '14, MPH '05) joined the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality as a Senior Adviser/Health Scientist Administrator for Women's Health.

DrPH candidate, **ALINA L. FLORES**, MPH, CHES, recently published an article in the Journal of Global Health Perspectives titled Building capacity for birth defects surveillance in Africa: Implementation of an intermediate birth defects surveillance workshop. She is also the recipient of the CDC's 2015 Honor Award for Excellence in Surveillance and Health Monitoring – International.

**ARDEN HANDLER**, DrPH, professor of community health sciences, was selected to receive the 2016 Vince Hutchins Partnership Award, which recognized her distinguished service to improve the health of the nation's Maternal and Child Health populations.

**FRANK HU**, (MPH '94, PhD '96), professor of nutrition and epidemiology at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School Brigham and Women's Hospital, has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine.



Tamara Michel Josserand

**TAMARA MICHEL JOSSERAND**, Ed.M, MBA, joined UIC SPH as its new Assistant Dean for Advancement in February. She comes with a

wealth of fundraising and advancement experience, having served in development positions at University of Nevada Las Vegas, Northwestern University, Yale University and The Booth School of Business.

Research by **HULLIAMS KAMLEM** (BA '15) titled Service Provision and Problem Behavior among Older Foster Care Youth was published as a chapter in a Psychology Nova Science manual.

The Public Health/Community Nutrition Practice Group of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics awarded **JOANNE KOUBA** (PhD '06) the 2015 PHCNPG Award Recipient Outstanding Member of the Year.



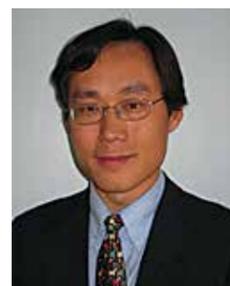
Joanne Kouba

**LATONYA MALEY**, (MPH '14), has been named the Director of the Broadway Youth Center.

**EMILY J. MANNING** (MHA '16) has been hired as Quality Improvement Coordinator with Meridian Health Plan.



Emily Manning



Frank Hu

**CHRIS MARTIN** (MPH '05) joined David James Group (DJG), an integrated marketing communications agency, as vice president of public relations. He brings more than 20 years of health care communications and public relations experience to the agency.



Chris Martin

**JENNIFER L. MCCAFFREY**, (PhD '11), MPH, RD, Assistant Dean of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Illinois, was elected Vice President of the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior.

**DR. MICHAEL MENDOZA** (MPH '01) has been named Interim Commissioner of Public Health by Monroe County Legislature. Dr. Mendoza will continue his role as Medical Director at Highland Family Medicine and as an Associate Professor in the Departments of Family Medicine, Public Health Sciences and Nursing at the University of Rochester Medical Center.



Michael Mendoza

**EDWARD MENSAH**, Program Director of the public health informatics program and associate professor of health policy and administration, was honored at American Public Health Association as the 2015 recipient of the Diane L. Adams, MD, MPH, CHS-III Founder's Award for Outstanding Leadership.

**NAYLIA MULATI**, a Master of Public Health candidate in the division of environmental and occupational health sciences, was awarded the first place prize at the annual Student Night event hosted by the American Industrial Hygiene Association for her presentation titled "Testing A Screening Question for Elevated Prenatal Mercury."

**NAOKO MURAMATSU**, associate professor of community health sciences, visited Shanghai as a delegate of Chicago Sister Cities International's Chicago-Shanghai Social Services Exchange Program. The delegation's opinion piece, entitled "China's One Child Policy and U.S. Long-Term Care", has been accepted as a "Letter to the Editor" for publication in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, an official journal of the American Geriatrics Society.

**ATIT M. PATEL** (MHA '16) is now an Administrative Pharmacist at Jesse Brown VA Hospital.

Doctoral candidate in the division of environmental and occupational health sciences, **LINH PHAN**, was awarded a Philanthropic Educational Organization International Peace Scholarship.

**JESUS RAMIREZ-VALLES**, professor and director of the division of community health sciences, has been selected as a Visiting Professor to teach in Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Santé Publique, Rennes, France. With the support of a fellowship from the Erasmus Mundus Program, he will participate in the European Public Health Master Program where he will work with students and scholars from 25 different countries.

**KWELI RASHIED-HENRY**, MPH, DrPH candidate, was recently promoted to Regional Director of Maternal and Child Health Program Impact for March of Dimes in "Region 3," which encompasses Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia/Virginia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina.



Kweli Rashied-Henry

**RACHEL REICHLIN** (MPH/MSN '14) was invited to present her capstone research titled "Applying a Community-Based Participatory Research Approach to Improve Asylum-Seekers' Access to Healthcare in Israel" at the European Conference on Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health in Oslo, Norway.

**BOYEDE SOBITAN** (MHA '07) is founder of Oja Express and created a new app for a food delivery service.

**DR. RAMESH SUBRAMANI**, MBA, (MPH '96) recently published a new book, *Health On Demand*, which analyzes over 250 digital health innovations and translates them into actionable health plans to make healthcare faster, better, smarter, and cheaper.



Ramesh Subramani

**SABRINA YOUNG**, PhD candidate in health policy and administration, coauthored a chapter with professor Jamie Chriqui in the textbook called Prevention, Policy, and Public Health.

**ALLYSON ZEEDRICH** (MPH '13) has joined the Peace Corps in Nicaragua. She will be working as a Health Promotion Volunteer in Managua where she will be training service providers, directing health education efforts to the general population, and facilitating and organizing health groups.



Allyson Zeedrich

**ROBERT JOHN ZAGAR** PhD, (MPH '81) recently published an article titled "Finding high risk persons with internet tests to manage risk; A literature review with policy implications to avoid violent tragedies, save lives and money" in *Review of European Studies*.

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

# Congratulations to the class of 2016

Nearly 300 graduates were celebrated at the UIC School of Public Health commencement ceremony on May 6, 2016. “We are extremely proud of the progress all our graduates achieved as students,” said Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf. “Our students this year have been outstanding for their leadership, vision, and dedication to working on behalf of individuals, organizations and communities in need.”

Graduates and their guests welcomed UIC Chancellor Michael D. Amiridis and Associate Dean of the Graduate College, Jonathan J. Art, both of whom gave opening remarks. This year’s commencement address was delivered by Kimberly Wasserman, director of organizing and strategy for the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization. Ms. Wasserman congratulated the students for pursuing a degree in public health and challenged them to use their knowledge to pursue justice for all.

An important part of the ceremony was the presentation of awards. The Bernard H. Baum Golden Apple Award is presented each year to a faculty member for his or her outstanding teaching

and extraordinary service to students. This year, it was awarded to Saria Awadalla, clinical assistant professor of biostatistics. Dr. Awadalla, who also received the award in 2015, was not present so Dr. Sylvia Furner, associate professor emerita, accepted it on his behalf.

This year, two public health faculty members were presented with the Silver Circle Award, a prestigious award determined by student votes for the campus’ best teachers. John Herrmann, DVM, MPH and Joanna Michel, PhD were nominated by the graduating seniors and recognized for their outstanding teaching. Dr. Herrmann, a veterinarian who teaches several courses in public health, helped establish a joint-degree



program between the College of Veterinary Medicine at the Urbana-Champaign campus and the UIC School of Public Health to offer the master of public health and doctor of veterinary medicine degrees. Dr. Michel, an instructor of medical education in the UIC College of Medicine, enjoyed teaching the Public Health 101 course because it allowed her to instill in students a sense of social responsibility.

The Alan W. Donaldson Memorial Award, named for UIC SPH’s first Associate Dean, is given to a student who demonstrates academic excellence, leadership and service. This year, it was presented to Cindy San Miguel, whose work as President of the Minority Students for the Advancement of Public Health provided numerous opportunities to engage in meaningful conversations about equity and justice.

After the conferral of degrees, the ceremony concluded with encouragement to stay connected to their alma mater by Tracie Smith (MPH ‘03), President of the Alumni Board. Ms. Smith urged the graduates to get involved by attending alumni events, hosting a student intern, or volunteering and donating to the school. ●



Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf joins keynote speaker, Kimberly Wasserman, and Chancellor Michael D. Amiridis.



Members of the Class of 2016



Dr. Michel receiving the Silver Circle Award.



Alan W. Donaldson Memorial Award recipient, Cindy San Miguel



Dr. Herrmann receives the Silver Circle Award from Amanda Dougherty, President of the Public Health Student Association.

# 2016 Annual Alumni Celebration

The UIC School of Public Health held its Annual Alumni Celebration on March 31, 2016 at the Italian American Sports Hall of Fame. The evening's reception included a silent auction, which raised \$4,500 for the Student Travel Fund. More than 220 guests enjoyed dinner and an awards presentation to alumni who were recognized for making significant contributions to the field of public health.

Dr. Susan C. Scrimshaw, who served as the UIC SPH Dean from 1994 – 2006, received the Champion of Public Health Award for her generous philanthropic support to UIC.



Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf served as emcee for the evening.



Guests enjoyed viewing the exhibits at the Italian American Sports Hall of Fame.

Guests bid on silent auction items, which raised money to support the Student Travel Fund.

## Award Recipients



**HEALTH POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
Joel F. Karman, MSW, MPH '99

**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
Jennifer Hebert-Beirne, PhD '08, MPH '95

**DR. NAOMI MORRIS ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES**  
Michele L. Shade McCay, DrPH '11, MPH '00

**HEALTH EQUITY ADVOCACY AWARD**  
Bambade Shakoor-Abdullah, PhD '92, MS

**CHAMPION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD**  
Susan C. Scrimshaw, PhD

**DR. NAOMI MORRIS ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH**  
Christine Taggart Bozlak, PhD '10, MPH

**DR. JACOB BRODY EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIostatISTICS ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
Karen Sheehan, MD, MPH '96

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
Mark David Johnson, PhD, MS '80, DABT



## 2016 Events

Please consider joining us for the following events:

**ADLER AFTER DARK**  
July 21, 2016  
6:30 pm – 10:30 pm  
Adler Planetarium  
1300 S. Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, IL 60605

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

**ALUMNI RECEPTION AT NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION**  
August 19, 2016  
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm  
UIC School of Public Health  
1603 W. Taylor Street  
Chicago, IL 60612

**HEALTHY SPIRITS**  
September 8, 2016  
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm  
Chicago Distilling Company  
2359 N. Milwaukee  
Chicago, IL 60647

**FOUNDERS CIRCLE ANNUAL RECEPTION**  
October 6, 2016  
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**APHA ALUMNI & FRIENDS RECEPTION**  
October 31, 2016  
5:30 pm – 9:00 pm  
The Studio Loft at the Denver Performing Arts Complex  
908 14th Street  
Denver, Colorado 80204

**LEGACY SOCIETY ANNUAL LUNCHEON**  
November 13, 2016  
12:00 pm – Lunch  
2:00 pm - Performance at UIC School of Theatre & Music



APHA

More than 500 people attended the APHA Alumni & Friends Reception at the Chicago Cultural Center on November 11, 2015.



FOUNDERS CIRCLE AND LEGACY SOCIETY RECEPTION

Founders Circle and Legacy Society members attended a special reception on March 3, 2016.



AHOC

Alumni and faculty of the UIC and Cook County Occupational Medicine Residency programs attended a reception at Beatrix in Chicago on April 11, 2016.



MHA RECEPTION

Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) alumni attended a reception at Blackfin in Chicago on April 28, 2016.



EVENING WITH LEGACIES AND LEADERS

Dr. Sharon Telleen (center) is joined by UIC's Chancellor Michael D. Amiridis, Dr. Ero Aggelopoulou-Amiridis, and her son, Paul Telleen, when she was honored at UIC's Evening with Legacies and Leaders event on April 7, 2016.



GAMING FOR THE GREATER GOOD

Members of the UIC SPH Recent Graduate Board hosted 50 guests at Headquarters Beercade on February 11, 2016.

# SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Office of Advancement  
1603 West Taylor Street, (MC 923)  
Chicago, IL 60612-4394

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Chicago, IL  
Permit No. 4860

**Over forty years  
of excellence in  
teaching, research  
and service!**