

## 11 Years of Dean's Day

In recognition of the 11th anniversary of Dean's Day, the Office of Student Affairs asked past winners what participating in Dean's Day meant to them, and what they are up to now.

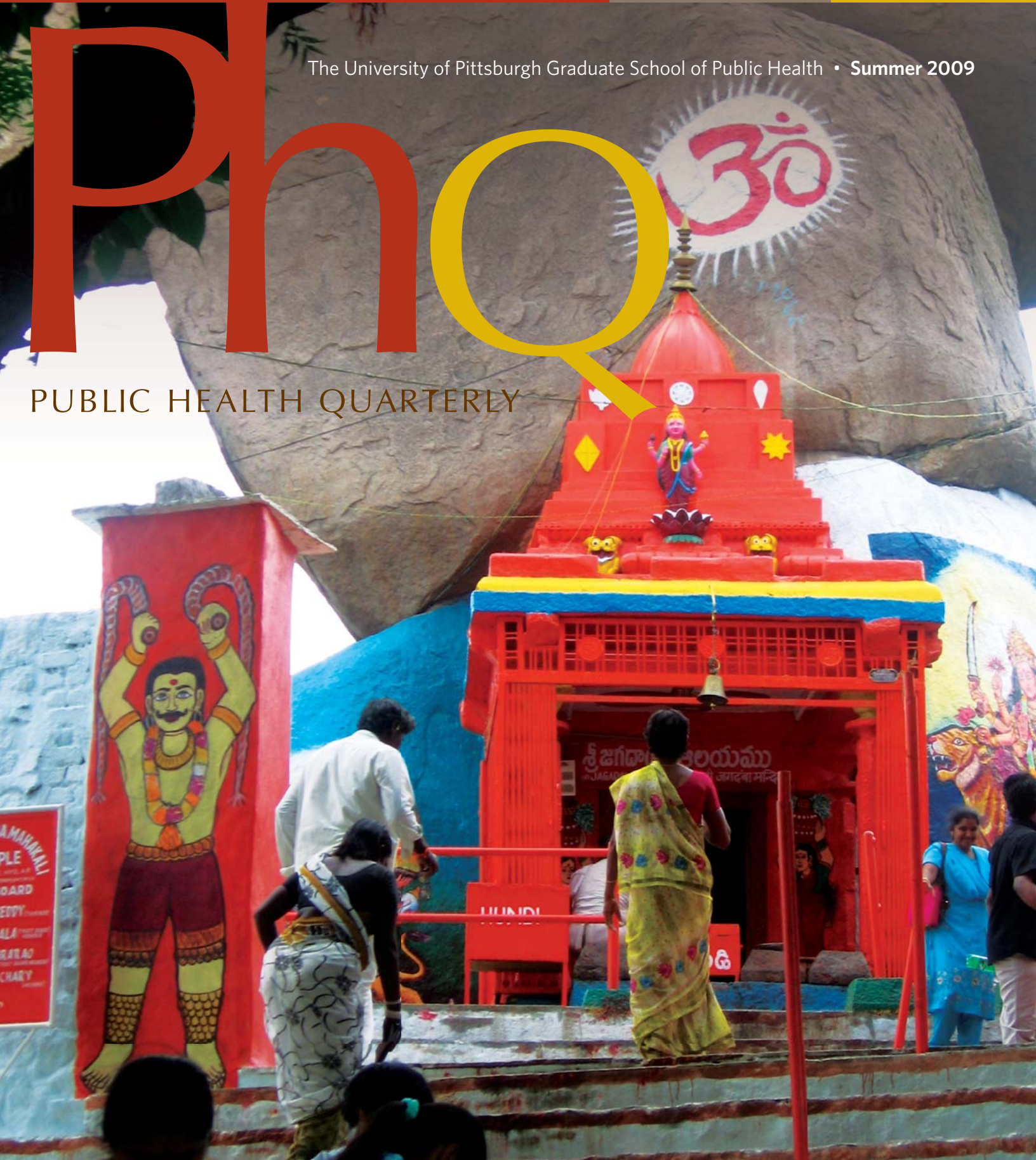
**Pitt Men's Study Reaches 25-Year Mark**  
Research began before the cause of AIDS was even discovered.

**Global Travel Grants**  
Students expand their horizons through summer field work.

The University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health • Summer 2009

# PhoQ

PUBLIC HEALTH QUARTERLY



in this **ISSUE**



## 11 YEARS OF DEAN'S DAY



## EXPANDING STUDENTS' HORIZONS

### PITT MEN'S STUDY TURNS 25



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See story on page 24.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN DONALD S. BURKE, MD

### Hitting the Public Health Research Trifecta—Twice!

No mistaking it, these are tough times, and schools of public health are not immune to the implosion of financial markets. I, like public health deans across the country, keep a close eye on our bottom line. For now, GSPH is doing as well as could be hoped. But it's been a terrific year for GSPH research. We've already hit the Public Health Research Trifecta, not once, but twice!

Our first GSPH trifecta consisted of three exceptional grant awards: the longest running grant, the most cost-effective grant, and the most perfect grant application. The Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences and principal investigator Ken Jaros were re-awarded a training grant for the Center for Maternal and Child Health Leadership in Public Health Social Work, now in its 52nd year. How's that for longevity! Chuck Rinaldo's Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology was lauded for its role in launching the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study, identified in *Science* magazine as among the most cost-effective investments in the history of the NIH. And Department of Human Genetics chair Ilyas Kamboh achieved the impossible: an unheard-of perfect 1.0 score on his grant application to NIH on the genetics of Alzheimer's disease. An academic Nadia Comaneci! I'd have to say that on the front end of the academic research process—grant applications—things are looking good for GSPH.

Our other GSPH trifecta when GSPH faculty published three major articles in the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine* within a month of each other. On June 11, Department of Epidemiology professors Sherry Kelsey and Trevor Orchard published the results of the Bypass Angioplasty Revascularization Investigation 2 Diabetes (BARI 2D) study, which compared differences in mortality



among patients with type 2 diabetes and heart disease who received prompt bypass surgery or angioplasty compared to drug therapy alone. On June 29, I and Pitt School of Medicine assistant professor Shanta Zimmer published an online Current Concepts article on the epidemiology and emergence of H1N1 swine flu strains over the past century. And on July 2 Yuting Zhang, assistant professor in the Department of Health Policy & Management, was first author on a study showing that seniors enrolled in Medicare Part D who previously had limited or no drug coverage spent more on prescriptions (as expected), but less on other services such as hospitalizations and doctor's office visits. Three major articles on three hot public health topics. I doubt any other school of public health has ever had such a month!

Maybe now's the time for us to score a *real* trifecta at the horse races or win the lottery, which would certainly help us reach our longstanding wish of renovating Parran and Crabtree Halls. Department of Health Policy & Management chair Judy Lave tells me she plays Powerball every time the jackpot passes \$50 million, in the hopes of raising funds for GSPH renovations. Go for it, Judy. As you can see, we're on a roll. If you win, we can rename ourselves the Powerball School of Public Health!

## 2009 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Three GSPH graduates were honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award at the annual dinner that took place on April 25. This year's awardees are:

### 2008 Distinguished Alumni Awardees

#### **Kenneth Miller, MS '70, Radiation Health**

Kenneth Miller is emeritus professor of radiology at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Pennsylvania State University, Hershey, Pennsylvania. He started at the Hershey Medical Center in 1971 as the director of the Division of Health Physics and as a research associate. In 2008, the Kenneth L. Miller Chair in Radiology was created at Penn State Hershey Medical Center to honor his long and distinguished service.

Miller's other honors include the Founders Award from the Health Physics Society in 2004; the Elda E. Anderson Award of the Health Physics Society, given annually to the outstanding health physicist under the age of 40 who has distinguished himself/herself through professional accomplishment; and election to the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, which awarded him distinguished emeritus member status in 2007. He was named editor-in-chief of Health Physics in 1993, and editor-in-chief of Operational Radiation Safety in 1998.

In nominating Miller for the Distinguished Alumni Award, Ronald Kathren, a fellow alumnus of GSPH had this to say: "Although a modest and unassuming and a man of great humility, Ken Miller has had enormous positive influence on the professions of medicine, health and medical physics through his teaching, committee service and other service activities. In the radiological health specialty area of public health he is internationally recognized as an authority on medical health physics and is well known as an alumnus of the Pitt GSPH, furthering the high regard in which the Pitt GSPH is held among practicing health physicists."



*Ken Miller and GSPH Alumni Society president  
Kristi Riccio Festa*

#### **David Reed, MS '61, Health Services Administration**

David Reed has led numerous successful health care organizations across the country. He headed the University of Cincinnati hospital with dozens of teaching programs and more than 500 interns and residents. In New York City, he led Lenox Hill Hospital with affiliations with Cornell, the New York Medical College, and New York University Schools of medicine. He was instrumental in establishing the Institute of Sports Medicine and Athletic Trauma, one of the first institutes dedicated to the study of sports and sports injuries in the country.

In Arizona he led the Samaritan Health Services, a system of hospitals, home health agencies, and a diversified for-profit subsidiary operating commercial

A call for nominations for the **2010 GSPH Alumni Awards** will be distributed in January, but it is never too early to start thinking about who you think would be a worthy recipient of an award next year.

laboratories, an ambulance company, a credit and collections company, and one of the country's largest air evacuation medical services. In California he headed St. Joseph Health System and its successful health maintenance organization. He achieved AA rating for St. Joseph Health System from Standard and Poor's and Moody's. He has extensive experience in developing physician delivery models responsive to the tenets of health care reform.

Upon his retirement in 1995, Reed served as chairman of the board of PacificCare Health Systems and as a special advisor to Deloitte and Touche, and chaired the board of Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center in southern California.

Reed is a life fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. He was the first Pitt alumnus to chair the American Hospital Association and served honorably in the United States Army. He has been a member of the Dean's National Advisory Committee for the GSPH Department of Health Policy & Management. Reed is currently retired and living in San Juan Capistrano, California.

### **Jeanne Zborowski, PhD '00, Epidemiology**

Jeanne Zborowski received her bachelor's degree in medical technology in 1971 and a master's degree in hematology in 1984, both from the University of Pittsburgh. In 2000, she earned her PhD in epidemiology from GSPH, specializing in women's health and environmental research. Her employment at the University started in 1987 as a clinical assistant professor and teaching fellow in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. In 1996 she was

named a graduate researcher in the GSPH Department of Epidemiology, and in 2000 was appointed a senior research specialist.

Zborowski was the principal investigator of the study "Breast Artery Calcification and Subclinical Atherosclerosis in Women with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome." She was also the principal investigator for the study of Hazelton and Hazel Township, Pennsylvania, titled "Cancer Risk in a Community Exposed to Benzene from a Gasoline Spill." She was the co-principal investigator on the University of Pittsburgh Academic Consortium for Excellence in Environmental Public Health Tracking. She worked on numerous investigations involving large data sets including the Three Mile Island Cancer Registry.

Her honors include the Pi Alpha Pennsylvania Society for Medical Technology Presidential Award (1982-1987) and the Omicron Sigma American Society for Medical Technology Presidential Award (1982-1987). She was elected to Delta Omega, Omicron Chapter

in 2000 and to Alpha Mu Tau (the national honor society for medical technology) in 1985. She also received the Edward P. Dolbey Award as Medical Technologist of the Year from the Pennsylvania Society for Clinical Laboratory Science in 1985. In addition, Zborowski participated in several community and volunteer programs.

Zborowski passed away in January 2009. In nominating her for this award, Evelyn Talbott wrote: "Jeanne was a warm and caring person who was relied on by faculty and students alike. She had a unique ability to bring people together. Jeanne was selfless; that was perhaps her greatest strength. If you had a problem, she'd be the first person you'd think of to call. Jeanne also was a great listener, both as a scientist and friend. She was an excellent researcher, writer, and editor. Her life, which she shared with her students, associates, and family, was one of patience, dedication, laughter, love, and dreams of the future."

*Son Gregory and husband Sam accept Jeanne Zborowski's award from Kristi Riccio Festa*



## ALUMNA NAMED BIOSAFETY FELLOW

**Molly Stitt-Fischer, PhD ('08)**, was one of three biosafety professionals to be awarded a two-year fellowship in the prestigious National Biosafety and Biocontainment Training Program (NBBTP). The two-year program training period, which began January 5, at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, is designed to prepare biosafety and biocontainment professionals of the highest caliber to meet the needs of the biomedical, emerging disease and civilian biodefense research communities.

Fellows train to support Biosafety Level 3 and 4 research environments by acquiring knowledge and skills necessary to meet the scientific, regulatory, biocontainment, biosafety, engineering, communications, management, and public relations challenges associated with the conduct of research in these facilities. Fellowships provide an extraordinary learning environment and rigorous program including academic training, experiential learning, mentorship, developmental assignments, and applied occupational safety and health research opportunities.

Stitt-Fischer earned her PhD from the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health. While pursuing her PhD, her research focused on exploring the connections between zinc homeostasis and nitric oxide signaling in the pulmonary endothelium. Prior to that, she worked as a research technician at the University of Pittsburgh examining zinc homeostasis in pulmonary endothelial cells. She volunteered at the University of Pittsburgh Regional Biocontainment Laboratory and observed the process of taking a BSL-3 laboratory from the construction phase, through commissioning and start-up, and assisted the biosafety officer in preparing the standard operating procedures for the laboratory, testing decontamination procedures.



### IN BRIEF

**Joseph Balog, PhD, MSHYG ('73)**, who graduated from GSPH's Maternal & Child Health Administration program, published an article in the April 2009 issue of the *American Journal of Public Health* titled, "The Moral Justification for a Compulsory Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Program." Balog is currently an associate professor at the College at Brockport, State University of New York in the Department of Health Science.

**Ronald Ott, MPH ('80)** has been named president of Westmoreland Hospital and its Jeannette, Pennsylvania, campus. Prior to this appointment, Ott had been president of UPMC McKeesport Hospital since 1991.

*Roll Call*, the newspaper of Capitol Hill, recently published a list of 10 congressional staffers who will have significant influence in the coming debate over health care reform. Among the 10 was **Bill Pewen**, senior health policy adviser to Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-Maine). Pewen has two degrees from GSPH: an MPH in epidemiology ('01) and a PhD in infectious diseases and microbiology ('03).

*Stitt-Fischer accepts an award from EOH chair Bruce Pitt at the 2007 Dean's Day Research Competition*

## Do you have news to share?

If you'd like to let us know about a professional accomplishment or personal news, please visit [www.publichealth.pitt.edu/update](http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/update) and tell us what's new!



**Julia Greer, MD, MPH ('05)** has published *The Anti-Cancer Cookbook*, a guide to choosing the best cancer-fighting foods and making them taste good. "I entered one of my salad recipes in a contest in *Suburban Living* magazine and, to my surprise, won," Greer says. She currently is a professor in the School of Medicine's Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition.

**Dee Dee Downie, MPH ('06)**, a prevention specialist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, received three CDC awards in 2008: Excellence in Systems for Program Operations, Award for Volunteer Service, Public Health Prevention Service Peer Recognition Award.

## GSPH ALUMNA NAMED LEGACY LAUREATE

**Nicole Johnson** was not satisfied to use her fame as Miss America 1999 to bring attention to diabetes and support the fight against the disease. She also wanted a formal health sciences education so that she could speak the language of health care providers and policy makers. So she earned an MPH from the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences in 2007. Her efforts resulted in her selection as a 2008 University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureate, which recognizes outstanding personal and professional accomplishment. She and the other recipients were honored at a dinner with Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg during homecoming weekend.

"As a patient, I was completely dissatisfied with the information I was getting," she said. "The education materials are very inconsistent and the communication is often negative." Johnson wants information for people with diabetes to focus less on what they shouldn't or can't do and more on teaching them how they can accomplish what they want to in their lives.

A major philanthropic force, Johnson has helped generate \$20 million for diabetes research and, through the Nicole Johnson Foundation Inc., provides access to education, technology, and health care. Her company, Nicole Johnson Inc., provides diabetes-related consulting, advocacy, and contract services. She serves as host of *dLifeTV*, a weekly CNBC show, and is a columnist for *Diabetes Health* magazine.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Charlene Bryan**, who earned her PhD in 2007 from the Department of Epidemiology and worked in the school's Epidemiology Data Center, passed away in January. After graduating, Bryan worked as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. She recently left that position for a new opportunity, working in pharmaceutical industry in Switzerland. Originally from Trinidad, Bryan came to Pittsburgh after a few years in Portland, Oregon, where she obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees. Those who knew her remember her as a wonderful person who enjoyed cooking and traveling.



Nicole Johnson with Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg

# eleven years of Dean's Day

GSPH's annual Dean's Day student research competition was founded in 1999 by Dean Herbert Rosenkranz as a vehicle for students to share their research, and as a community event to recognize and award their superior research and practice. In recognition of the 11th anniversary of Dean's Day, the Office of Student Affairs, which administers the program, decided to survey students who had won awards going back to the first year and ask them what participating in Dean's Day meant to them, and what they are up to now.

*Following is a sample of responses to the survey.*

*For a complete list of Dean's Day winners, visit [www.publichealth.pitt.edu](http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu) and click on the Student Affairs tab.*





## Neyal J. Ammary-Risch

MPH (2003 BCHS)



### What was the title of your winning research project?

Talking to Kids About Cancer: The Development and Assessment of In Mommy's Garden

### What did the award mean to you?

Receiving a Dean's Day Award was a great achievement. So many students at GSPH were doing fantastic work and research, so winning an award for the work I was doing was really an honor. It gave me extra motivation to keep pursuing the work I was doing at the time in cancer education.

### What are you doing now?

Deputy director, National Eye Health Education Program, National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md.

## Lisa Marie Bernardo

PhD, MPH (2000 MMPH), RN, HFI



### What was the title of your winning research project?

Dog Bites in Children Treated in a Pediatric Emergency Department, 1999

Playground Injuries in Children: A Review and Trauma Center Experience, 2000

### What did the award mean to you?

As an MMPH student, winning twice was truly an honor. These awards validated our hard work in pediatric trauma epidemiology.

### What are you doing now?

Associate professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing

## Sarah Bradley

MS (2008 GNCSLG)



### What was the title of your winning research project?

The Contribution of Economic Hardship to Caregiver Burden and Depression

### What did the award mean to you?

My presentation was based on my thesis work, and so it felt really great to be recognized for it after putting so much passion, time, and effort into it.

### What are you doing now?

Genetic counselor, Maimonides Cancer Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.

## Heather Douglas

MS (2008 GNCSLG)



### What was the title of your winning research project?

The Effect of BRCA Gene Testing on Family Relationships: A Thematic Analysis of Qualitative Interviews

### What did the award mean to you?

This award showed me that a number of professionals working in different areas of public health recognize that genetic testing for common conditions can have complex psychosocial implications. This type of research will become more important as the underlying basis of common conditions like cancer, mental illness, and cardiovascular disease becomes better understood and predictive testing becomes available.

### What are you doing now?

Genetic counselor, Rouge Valley Health System, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

## Rafael E. Flores-Obando



### What was the title of your winning research project?

Smoking, Chromosome Damage and an Abnormal DNA Damage Response

(DDR) in Head and Neck Cancer (SCCHN)

### What did the award mean to you?

The third prize in the master's category at the 2008 Dean's Day Research Competition was a recognition of a collaborative effort towards the better understanding of head and neck cancer lead by Dr. Susanne M. Gollin and her laboratory staff. This prize has strengthened my commitment to keep expanding my current research work while looking for better ways to translate these findings at the public health levels.

### What are you doing now?

PhD student in the GSPH Department of Human Genetics

## Sherrienne Gleason

PhD (2008 IDM)



### What was the title of your winning research project?

Implementing a Teaching Module on Bioterrorism for High School Students

### What did the award mean to you?

One of my passions has always been teaching. I devoted a significant amount of time and energy into my bioterrorism teaching module. It was not only something I created, but something I was able to successfully teach two years in a row for the Pennsylvania Governor's School for Healthcare. The Dean's Day Award gave me a feeling of great accomplishment and pride knowing that something I put so much work into and believed in was appreciated by my peers in the public health community. It provided extra motivation for me to continue to improve the module and find a way to share it with other educators so it can be implemented by others.

## Alana Gregg Hudson

PhD (2008 EPI)



### What was the title of your winning research project?

Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug Use and Serum Estradiol

in Postmenopausal Women

### What did the award mean to you?

The GSPH Dean's Day competition brings together researchers from different disciplines and I enjoyed the challenge of presenting my research to such a diverse

audience. Receiving this award means that researchers from other disciplines believe that the work I have done has been valuable. So for me, to win this award was a great honor.

### What are you doing now?

Analytical epidemiologist, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Office of Epidemiology & Health Promotion, Division of Surveillance & Disease Control, Charleston, W.V.

## Megan Kavanaugh

DrPH (2008 BCHS), MPH (2005 BCHS)



### What was the title of your winning research project?

Counseling About and Use of Emergency Contraception in the United

States: Results from the National Survey of Family Growth

### What did the award mean to you?

Winning the Delta Omega poster award provided me with the opportunity to represent GSPH at the national poster session for Dean's Day research winners at the American Public Health Association's annual meeting in Washington, DC in the fall of 2007 where I networked with and was introduced to several colleagues in my field.

### What are you doing now?

Charlotte Ellertson Social Science Postdoctoral Fellow in Abortion and Reproductive Health, Guttmacher Institute, New York, N.Y.

## Yan Liu

MPH (2007 EOH)



### What was the title of your winning research project?

Mercury in Channel Catfish, *Ictalurus punctatus*, Caught in Southwestern Pennsylvania

### What did the award mean to you?

It is a huge encouragement to me. I am so proud that we are contributing to the better environmental health for local communities.

### What are you doing now?

PhD student, GSPH Department of Environmental and Occupational Health

## Erin O'Leary

MS(2005 GNCSLG)



### What was the title of your winning research project?

The Role of Fanconi Anemia Genes in DNA Damage Repair

### What did the award mean to you?

It was an honor to participate in Deans Day to discuss the genetic mechanisms related to cancer and hereditary predisposition. This presentation enabled me to utilize the skills I had acquired in the Genetic Counseling Training Program and to also make other public health professionals aware of new developments in cancer genetics.

### What are you doing now?

Certified Genetic Counselor, Genetics Center, Orange County, Calif.

## Urvi Parikh

PhD (2005 IDM)



### What was the title of your winning research project?

HIV-1 Encoding a Single Amino Acid Substitution in Reverse Transcriptase at

Residue 65 (Lys→Arg) Shows Varying Susceptibility to NRTIs Based on Pseudosugar Structure

### What did the award mean to you?

The Dean's Day poster was the first scientific poster I had ever created and the first time I had presented my work so I was so surprised when I won first place! The competition was an excellent opportunity for a beginning graduate student to gain practice, experience, and confidence, which proved useful when I went to my first international conferences and presented to a wider audience. Since Dean's Day, I've presented four times at conferences from my graduate school work, and three more from my post-doc at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Though the abstract-writing and conference-going is second nature now, winning Dean's Day was the spark that started that process.

### What are you doing now?

Associate director, Microbicide Trials Network Virology Lab, and assistant professor of medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

## Ami Patel

PhD (2005 EPI), MPH (2001 EPI)



### What was the title of your winning research project?

Risk of Cancer Associated with Gasoline (2002) Norovirus in Grand Canyon River Rafters (2003)

### What did the award mean to you?

By being recognized for research projects that had more apparent applications to the public health community, my Dean's Day awards further solidified my passion for applied public health work.

### What are you doing now?

Career epidemiology field officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Philadelphia, Pa.

## Katherine Reeves

PhD (2008 EPI)



### What was the title of your winning research project?

Body Mass Index and Mortality among Elderly Breast Cancer Survivors in the

Study of Osteoporotic Fractures (SOF) (2007)

Longitudinal Association of Anthropometry with Mammographic Breast Density (2008)

### What did the award mean to you?

I really appreciated having the opportunity to share the work I had been doing outside the classroom with the GSPH community. It was truly an honor to have my research recognized by the GSPH faculty, especially given the high quality of the other presenters' work.

### What are you doing now?

Assistant professor, Department of Public Health, School of Public Health and Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst

## Chad Rittle

MPH (2003 EOH)



### What was the title of your winning research project?

A Risk Assessment: Nitrate Pollution in the Connoquenessing Creek

### What did the award mean to you?

Even though my master's research paper was not published, it paved the way for me to perform a systematic review of vaccine storage and handling procedures and subsequently have a paper published in the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses journal discussing vaccine handling and storage problems in an occupational health clinic.

### What are you doing now?

Northwest District Epidemiology Manager, Pennsylvania Department of Health

## Kirsten St. George

PhD (2004 IDM)



### What was the title of your winning research project?

Biological Stability and Anatomical Site Compartmentalization

of Drug Resistant Cytomegalovirus in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients

### What are you doing now?

Director, Clinical Virology Program, Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health, Albany

## Adam C. Straub

PhD (2008 EOH)



### What was the title of your winning research project?

Arsenic Signals Through G-proteins and NADPH Oxidase (NOX) to Promote

Mouse Liver Sinusoidal Endothelial Cell Capillarization

### What did the award mean to you?

Among all the outstanding participants, I am honored to receive both the first prize in the doctoral category and the Rozenkranz Award for Public Health Significance. This experience greatly aided my professional development and reinforced the significance of public health research. I strongly encourage all GSPH students to participate in the future.

## Xiaojing Wang

PhD (2007 HUGEN), MS (2007 BIOST)



### What was the title of your winning research project?

Genetic and Environmental Determinants of DXA and pQCT Measured BMD in

Afro-Caribbean Families

### What did the award mean to you?

GSPH Dean's Day competition is a super fantastic festival for all students who love science and want to share their research fruits. To me, winning the award here brought me the pride of the research studies I've done and, more important, the greatest inspirations and motivations for my future work.

### What are you doing now?

Research assistant professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine ■■■

# Dean's Day 2009

The 2009 GSPH Dean's Day Awardees  
and the titles of their projects:

## DOCTORAL CATEGORY

### 1st Prize: Nitin Bhardwaj, Infectious Diseases and Microbiology

Oral presentation: Comparative Evaluation of  
DNA Plasmid and Alphavirus Replicon Based  
Vaccine Strategies Against Rift Valley Fever Virus

### 2nd Prize: Rachel Bailey, Epidemiology

Poster presentation: Modeling the Cost  
Effectiveness of Facility-wide Active Surveillance  
for Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus  
(MRSA) in Acute Care Hospitals

### 3rd Prize: Andria Robinson, Human Genetics

A therapeutic strategy to delay age-related  
degenerative changes in a murine model of  
accelerated aging

## MASTER'S CATEGORY

### 1st Prize: Andrew Michanowicz, Environmental and Occupational Health

Poster presentation: Community driven  
research: Effluent characterization of legacy  
contamination containing trace metals in an  
alkaline outfall entering the Allegheny River  
near Cadogan, Pennsylvania

### 2nd Prize: Chien-Wen Jean Kuo, Biostatistics

Oral presentation: Endothelin-1 concentration  
in cerebrospinal fluid may be predictive of  
learning and memory outcomes 12 months  
after aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage

### 3rd Prize: Chris Lauricella, Human Genetics

Oral presentation-Knowledge of the Tuskegee  
Syphilis Study and its Effects on African  
Americans' Perception of Medical Research



Back row, from left: GSPH Dean Donald S. Burke, MD;  
Chien-Wen Jean Kuo; Andrew Michanowicz; Rachel Bailey;  
Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Education Sandra  
Quinn, PhD

Front row, from left: Nitin Bhardwaj; Andria Robinson;  
Vanessa Short; Chris Lauricella

### Rosenkranz Award (for the presentation with the greatest public health significance):

Andrew Michanowicz, Environmental and  
Occupational Health, Poster presentation:  
Community driven research: Effluent character-  
ization of legacy contamination containing trace  
metals in an alkaline outfall entering the  
Allegheny River near Cadogan, Pennsylvania

### Keleti Award

#### (for excellence in environmental health):

Andrew Michanowicz, Environmental and  
Occupational Health, Poster presentation:  
Community driven research: Effluent character-  
ization of legacy contamination containing trace  
metals in an alkaline outfall entering the  
Allegheny River near Cadogan, Pennsylvania

### Delta Omega Omicron Chapter Poster Award:

Vanessa Short, Epidemiology Poster  
presentation: Mycoplasma genitalium in early  
pregnancy is not associated with spontaneous  
abortion among urban women at high risk for  
sexually transmitted diseases

*GSPH would like to congratulate these award winners,  
as well as all students who submitted abstracts and those  
who were chosen to give presentations of their work.  
We also thank our faculty members who served as jurors.*

A close-up photograph of a man with short, curly hair, wearing a white lab coat, looking through the eyepieces of a light microscope. The background is a solid light green color. The text 'pitt men's study reaches' is overlaid on the left side of the image, and the large number '25' is overlaid in the center.

pitt men's  
study reaches

25



## RESEARCH BEGAN BEFORE THE CAUSE OF AIDS WAS KNOWN

**T**he Pitt Men's Study—the Pittsburgh portion of the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study, or MACS—began in 1983 as a National Institutes of Health-funded, longitudinal examination of the natural history of AIDS in men who have sex with men (MSM). It was called a “natural history of AIDS” and not “the natural history of HIV infection” because the study began before anyone knew the disease was caused by a virus. The primary goal of the study at that time was to assemble a cohort of men at risk of HIV infection and study the group over time to gather information about factors that might have been influencing the emerging disease. Recruitment of volunteers would not have been possible without the contributions from community members, who eventually formed the Community Advisory Board that still functions today.

Once enrolled into the study, the men gave detailed information about their lives and behavior, as well as biological samples such as blood and other body fluids. This information was then analyzed by researchers. Data and specimens from the Pitt Men's study as well as the other MACS sites at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Northwestern University in Chicago, and the University of California at Los Angeles, constitute one of the largest bases of information of HIV infection and disease progression in the world.

## COMMEMORATION

As part of the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Pitt Men's Study, two events were planned. The first, a scientific symposium, took place on November 3, 2008. The speakers were:

- **Sten Vermund**, nationally recognized HIV researcher
- **Phil Parr**, prominent community advocate
- **Charles R. Rinaldo**, principal investigator of the Pitt MACS and chair of the GSPH Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology

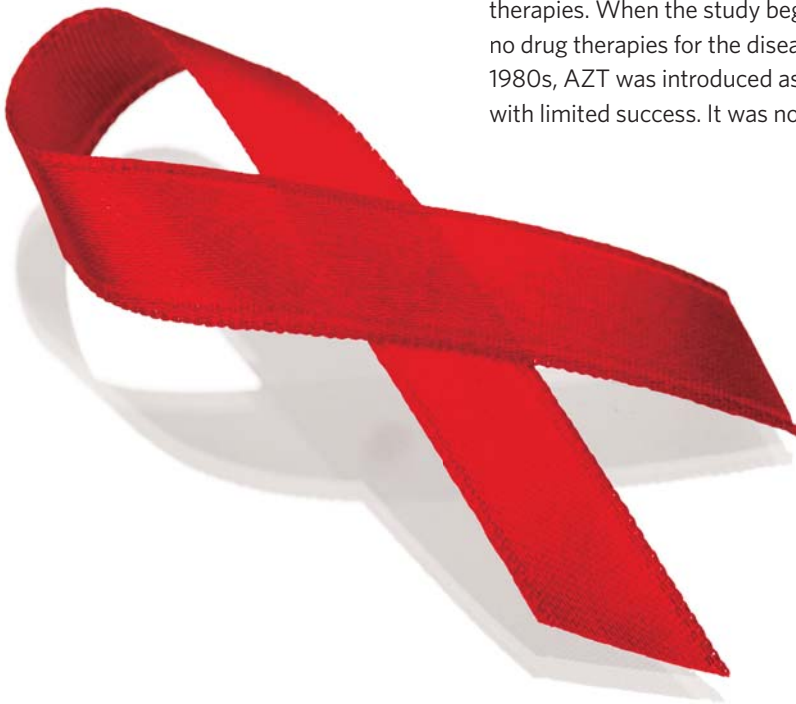
A second, community event took place on April 4, 2009, and celebrated all the men who volunteered for the study and made the resulting scientific discoveries possible.

The MACS was responsible for major scientific discoveries including the identification of the principle risk factors in the transmission of HIV, and the development and evaluation of viral load as the standard measure of disease and treatment progression. Researchers from other academic institutions can access this information upon approval from the MACS executive committee. Research using MACS samples and MACS data has resulted in the publication of more than 1,700 scholarly papers in scientific journals.

**W**hile early research focused on factors that describe the health and illness of this population, the study broadened as the impact of the disease became better understood and research in virology, immunology, neurology, and behavioral sciences became increasingly important aspects of the study. The biggest impact on both the health of HIV-positive participants and the evolution of the PMS was the development of powerful combinations of antiviral drug therapies. When the study began there were no drug therapies for the disease. In the mid 1980s, AZT was introduced as a treatment with limited success. It was not until the

mid-1990s, more than a decade after the study began, that multiple drug therapies were introduced as effective treatments. Although these therapies do not cure HIV infection, they reduce levels of the virus in most infected individuals to a point where they do not progress from HIV infection to AIDS. The clinical effect of being AIDS-free meant that the mortality rate associated with AIDS has declined dramatically.

While multiple drug therapies keep the HIV-positive men in the study alive much longer, there are still serious health consequences of both HIV infection and side-effects of antiviral medication. The impact of prolonged exposure to HIV even at low viral levels remains unknown. Again the PMS cohort provides an excellent source to study the natural progression and the effects of treatment on the progression of the infection. One of the earliest impacts detected in treated survivors was a syndrome known as lipodystrophy. Lipodystrophy consists of a variety of body changes such as fatty deposits, wasting, and localized combinations of the two, and is associated with elevated blood fats and blood sugar. The concerns associated with lipodystrophy and the resulting long-term effects of HIV treatment have led investigators to use the MACS cohort to investigate the impact of treatment on cardiovascular (see sidebar) and renal diseases. The ready access to men in the study and their biological samples has been and continues to be invaluable in the conduct of research in these areas.





As the study moves beyond the first 25 years, it continues to face ever-changing challenges in disease progression. Today we look to enhance our knowledge of this infection in relation to treatment intervention, and to the development of immunotherapeutic treatments and vaccines. Our current aims are to:

1. Determine the long-term history of untreated and treated HIV infection in MSM.
2. Characterize the responses to HIV therapy, including psychological and behavioral factors.
3. Examine the effects of HIV and prolonged HIV therapy exposure on lipodystrophy, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, liver disease, malignancies, neurocognitive function, substance use, kidney disease, and other outcomes.
4. Assess the effects of aging on the clinical course of HIV and HIV therapy.
5. Examine the interaction between human genetics and HIV.
6. Define the development of disease after HIV infection and characterize HIV-associated cancers, including identification of risk factors.
7. Determine social and behavioral factors that affect HIV transmission and disease progression.
8. Characterize other infections and how they affect HIV disease progression.
9. Examine the effects of substance abuse on antiretroviral treatment effectiveness.
10. Maintain the database that both characterizes the MACS population and its biological specimens as a repository for future studies of the natural history and disease processes that occur after HIV infection.
11. Perform clinical and laboratory testing of MSM in the Pittsburgh MACS, including T cell subsets, anti-HIV Ab, HIV viral load, hepatitis B virus and hepatitis C virus, serum lipid/insulin/glucose levels, liver function, renal function, and cardiovascular markers.

Despite all the progress the study has supported from prevention to transmission to diagnosis and treatment, new infections continue to occur. We therefore continue our commitment to monitor the health of all members of the cohort until the disease has been cured.

This summary was prepared by members of the Pitt Men's Study Steering Committee and Joe Pawlak, MPA, administrative coordinator of the Pitt Men's Study.

## LONG-TERM HIV TREATMENT MAY CUT RISK FOR ATHEROSCLEROSIS

### Recent MACS Publication

*Antiretroviral drugs for HIV do not increase the risk for coronary atherosclerosis, a central risk factor for heart disease, according to a study led by GSPH and published in the August 20 issue of AIDS, the journal of the International AIDS Society. The results further suggest that antiretroviral therapy may offer men with HIV some protection against atherosclerosis—hardening of the arteries, caused in part by high levels of cholesterol, smoking, and other lifestyle factors.*

*The study, part of the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) initiated in 1983, measured levels of coronary artery calcification (CAC) in nearly 950 HIV-positive and HIV-negative men by CT scanning completed between 2004 and 2006. Controlling for traditional atherosclerosis risk factors such as age, family history, smoking, and blood pressure, the study team found that CAC scores were almost 60 percent lower in HIV-positive men who received highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) for more than eight years compared to HIV-negative men. HAART, a course of treatment that involves the combination of three or more antiretrovirals, has been associated with an increase in cholesterol and other factors associated with atherosclerosis, leading some to question whether long-term use increases the risk of heart attack.*

*"When we first prescribed highly active antiretroviral therapy for HIV in 1995, we were concerned about how these drugs changed lipid levels in patients and whether they would increase atherosclerosis and ultimately lead to serious heart disease," said Lawrence Kingsley, DrPH ('83), MPH ('81), study lead author and associate professor in GSPH's Departments of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology and Epidemiology.*

*"While some studies have found an association between these antiretroviral treatments and increased risk of cardiovascular disease, we believe our findings should reassure clinicians that using antiretroviral therapy over time does not appear to put patients at greater risk for coronary atherosclerosis and may, in fact, be more beneficial than we had initially thought," Kingsley added.*

*The study also found that for both HIV-positive and HIV-negative men, older age was most strongly associated with the presence of coronary atherosclerosis. Smoking, lipid abnormalities, and family history also played a role.*

*"This was not surprising, since these are the major risk factors for atherosclerosis in the general population," said Kingsley. "The purpose of our study, however, was to investigate whether long-term HAART usage was a major risk factor."*

*"These results could be due, in part, to lower lipid values of HIV infected men prior to beginning antiretroviral therapy and high use of lipid-lowering drugs. The key is that controlling risk factors for atherosclerosis should be a priority," added Lewis Kuller, MD, DrPH, study coauthor and GSPH professor of epidemiology.*

*Kingsley said what remains to be determined "is whether use of the newest antiretroviral therapies confers an even better outcome and whether lipid-lowering therapies will further improve cardiovascular risk in the HIV-infected population. Our future research will address these questions."*

The study was funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the National Cancer Institute, and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

# SELECTED MILESTONES OF SIGNIFICANCE IN PMS/MACS RESEARCH OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS

## 1982 Charles Rinaldo Studies New "Gay Disease" at Pitt:

Because of his interest in herpesviruses, Charles Rinaldo, PhD, and Pitt medical student David Lyter approach local lesbian and gay leaders and bar owners to initiate a pilot study in response to the new disease seen primarily among gay and bisexual men, first called GRID (gay-related immune deficiency), then AIDS.

## 1983 Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS):

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) funds five centers (Pittsburgh, Chicago, Los Angeles, Baltimore, and San Francisco) to study the natural history of AIDS. The Pittsburgh initiative is named the Pitt Men's Study (PMS). All but San Francisco collaborate to form the MACS and establish a national specimen repository.

## 1984 Pitt Men's Study (PMS) Begins Recruitment:

PMS researchers begin recruiting tri-state area men by visiting bars, picnics in North Park, and other places where gay and bisexual men gather. More than 1,200 are eventually recruited for the Pittsburgh portion of MACS.

## 1985 HIV Antibody Testing:

MACS begins testing for HIV antibody as indication of infection. PMS volunteers are invited to learn the results of these tests.

## 1986 Standards of HIV Prognosis:

MACS scientists begin to develop standard prognostic markers of immune suppression during HIV infection.

## 1987 Risky Sex:

MACS publishes benchmark data concerning sexual behaviors and their role in the transmission of HIV.

## 1989 AIDS Survival:

MACS documents longer survival times for many HIV-infected men, yet note that 10 percent progress to clinical AIDS within four years of infection. Intensive investigation of long-term survivors and rapid progressors is undertaken to determine intervention strategies.

## 1990 Hepatitis B Virus Transmission:

The Pittsburgh MACS investigators show that HBV is transmitted almost nine times more efficiently than HIV in gay men.

## 1990 Risk of Pneumocystis Carinii Pneumonia (PCP) Among Men Infected with HIV-1:

MACS data show that PCP is unlikely to develop in HIV-1-infected patients unless their CD4T cells are depleted to 200 per cubic millimeter or below, or the patients are symptomatic, and therefore set the standard of care that prophylaxis should be reserved for such patients.

## 1990 Autopsy Program Begins:

Autopsies are not easy for volunteers, their families, and their loved ones to contemplate, yet they are vital for the complete understanding of HIV disease and the role of the clinically undiagnosed illness in AIDS. The MACS establishes an autopsy protocol, which all four MACS centers adopt for use.

## 1991 National T Cell Standards for HIV:

MACS establishes quality control for flow cytometry (T cell counts) that is also adopted by the national, multisite, NIH AIDS Clinical Trials Group.

## 93-94 Impact of Zidovudine Treatment and Pneumocystis Carinii Pneumonia (PCP) Prophylaxis:

MACS researchers document that ZDV treatment and PCP prophylaxis extended AIDS-free time by six to nine months, and that the most common complications are CVM retinitis, esophageal candidiasis, and wasting syndrome.

## 1992 ZDV Monotherapy and PCP Prophylaxis Slow Progression to AIDS:

MACS data support the hypothesis that in HIV-1 infection, early treatment with ZDV and PCP prophylaxis improves survival in addition to slowing the progression to AIDS.

## 1993 Changes in HIV Rates and Sexual Behavior Among Homosexual Men:

Pittsburgh MACS data show that approximately 7 percent of men under 22 and 18 percent of the men over 22 in a 1992 cohort were already infected with HIV, the same rates as those described 8 years before. This report emphasizes that aggressive risk-reduction programs are needed in high schools and existing networks in the gay community.

## 1993 MACS Neuropsychiatric Study Provides Foundation for Evaluating the Mechanisms Responsible for HIV-Associated Nervous System Disease:

MACS research indicates that the development of AIDS is linked to increased risk of HIV-associated dementia (HAD), although cognitive impairment can occur before the onset of AIDS. The research also indicates that HAD can develop with a cumulative prevalence as high as 20 percent, and an annual incidence of 7 to 10 percent following a diagnosis of AIDS.

## 1993 Depression and Outcome of HIV Infection:

MACS research shows that depression does not relate to worse outcomes of HIV infection.

## 1994 Blood Dendritic Cells Produce Interferon Alpha in Response to HIV and Other Virus Infections:

Pittsburgh MACS investigators are the first to show that a subset of dendritic cells produce very high levels of the antiviral protein interferon alpha. These cells may thereby act to regulate HIV infection and other immune responses.

## 1995 Progression Versus Non-Progression:

10 to 15 percent of infected men have stable T-cell counts over a 10-year period; intensive investigation attempts to discover why. The amount of virus in the blood, genetic factors, the character of the initial course of HIV disease, and the exposure to sexually transmitted disease after being infected with HIV are found to be related to the progression of AIDS.

## 1995 Non-Progression of HIV Infection Is Related to Lower Viral Tissue Burden and High Anti-HIV Cytotoxic T Lymphocytes (CTL):

An NIH laboratory in collaboration with the MACS shows that lymph nodes harbor low levels of virus in long-term non-progressors. The Pittsburgh MACS reported that this is related to high levels of anti-HIV CTL.

## 1996 Viral Load Identified as Predictor of HIV Progression:

Pittsburgh MACS investigators identify a strong relationship between viral load and clinical progression to AIDS. Based on this research, viral load becomes standard of care measure for prognosis of HIV infection and initiation of antiviral drug therapy.

## 1996 Discovery of a New Virus that Causes Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS):

Utilizing specimens that include those from the MACS autopsy repositories, Patrick Moore and Yuan Chang, then at Columbia University, identify a new herpesvirus, termed KSHV, that is the cause of KS, the major type of AIDS cancer.

## 1996 Genetic Basis for Increase or Decrease in Progression of HIV Infection:

NIH scientists in collaboration with the MACS show that host genetic factors are linked to both slower and faster progression of HIV infection. These studies have important implications for the development of treatment and vaccines for HIV.

## 1997 Semen Identified as the Major Vehicle for Viral Transmission Throughout the Course of HIV Infection:

Researchers in the Pittsburgh MACS demonstrate high levels of HIV in semen at all stages of the infection. The study indicated viral load decreases in semen following therapy with potent antiretroviral drugs, decreasing the likelihood of HIV transmission.

## 1997 Functional Capacity of Dendritic Cells in HIV Infection Delineated:

Research conducted by Pittsburgh MACS investigators indicates that dendritic cells have the capacity to stimulate antigen-specific CD8 T cell immunity even late in infection. This sets the foundation for development of dendritic cell-based immunotherapy of HIV infection.

## 1998 Triple Drug Therapies Tested as Treatment for AIDS:

The effectiveness of triple drug therapies in the restoration of CD4 and CD8 T cells, and the significance of decreases in HIV viral load are confirmed by the MACS on a population basis.

## 2001 Prevalence of Lipodystrophy in Men Who Are HIV Infected or at Risk of HIV Infection:

The prevalence of mild, moderate, and severe body changes are documented in HIV-positive men receiving a range of treatments. This pathology has important implications for the use of antiretroviral drugs.

## 2001 First Description of Primary Infection with KSHV:

MACS investigators document the acute, primary syndrome of KSHV infection in non-HIV infected people as mildly symptomatic with development of antibodies and T cell immunity.

## 2003 Impact of HIV Infection and Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) on Serum Lipids in Men:

The MACS, led by Pittsburgh investigators, documents for the first time the impact of HIV infection and HAART on changes in cholesterol levels that could influence development of cardiovascular disease.

## 2004 Persistent GB Virus C Infection and Survival in HIV-Infected Men:

GBV-C viremia was significantly associated with prolonged survival among HIV-positive men five to six years after HIV seroconversion. Understanding the mechanisms of interaction between GBV-C and HIV may provide insight into the progression of HIV disease.

## 2005 Impact of Antiretroviral Therapy on Development of Diabetes Mellitus and Insulin Resistance:

MACS investigators highlight the increased risks associated for development of diabetes and impaired glucose metabolism among HIV-infected men taking HAART.

## 2006 A New Pattern of Fat Accumulation in HIV-Infected Men Discovered:

Pittsburgh MACS investigators discover a peculiar pattern of body habitus changes in HIV infected men.

## 2007 Prognostic Value of HIV RNA, CD4 T Cell Count and Slope in Progression to AIDS and Death in Untreated HIV Infection:

The prognostic strength of HIV RNA load in the blood is consistent with a central role of viral replication in AIDS pathogenesis, supporting the use of HIV-1 RNA for estimating prognosis in untreated HIV-1 infection.

## 2007 DC-SIGN on B Lymphocytes Is Required for Transmission of HIV to T Lymphocytes:

Pittsburgh MACS investigators discover that DC-SIGN on B cells serves as a portal for HIV-1 infection of T cells, which could be important in the pathogenesis of HIV-1 infection.

## 2008 Risk of Coronary Atherosclerosis Among HIV-Infected and HIV-Negative Men:

Pittsburgh investigators lead MACS studies showing a lower risk of coronary atherosclerosis among HIV-infected men than previously understood. This work forms the basis for a new way of thinking about the risk of atherosclerosis in the context of HIV infection.

## GSPH STUDENT RENEE WALKER NAMED KELLOGG SCHOLAR

Renee Walker, DrPH candidate in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, was awarded a place in the 2009 Kellogg Health Scholars Program, which seeks to develop new leadership in the effort to reduce and eliminate health disparities and to secure equal access to the conditions and services essential for achieving healthy communities.

Walker, who also holds an MPH from Drexel University in community health and prevention and a bachelor's degree in biology from Lake Forest (Ill.) College, will complete the two-year fellowship at the Harvard School of Public Health. In addition to the Kellogg Scholar award, Walker received a joint appointment with the Yerby Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Walker's research interests are in the roles of residential neighborhood context as a determinant of health, particularly the neighborhood food environment (types of food stores, types of food offered, affordability, etc.) and the implications for overweight and obesity. Her previous health disparities research includes the use of qualitative methodologies to understand perceptions of diabetes self-management among residents of a low-income community in Philadelphia, and to explore facilitators and barriers to proper diet and nutrition among older African American participants in an exercise and nutrition program. Walker's current research uses concept mapping to explore perceptions of factors that go into food buying practices among low-income, urban residents of two neighborhoods with different access to large chain supermarkets. Her research seeks to fill some of the gaps regarding our understanding of how neighborhood context is related to healthy eating practices.

The Kellogg Health Scholars Program consists of two tracks and offers two-year postdoctoral fellowships at eight training sites. The community track highlights community-based participatory research, and relationships between academic health disparities research, public health practices in communities, and policy development. The multidisciplinary track highlights a multidisciplinary approach to studying the determinants of health inequalities and inequities. Both tracks highlight the translation of health research into policy findings and recommendations.



All scholars participate once a year in a networking meeting/workshop at which policy and practice experts from the affiliated policy development/advocacy organizations, public health agencies, and community leaders share their expertise with the scholars and the scholars share their work with each other and with the program's National Advisory Committee. In addition, small annual meetings of the scholars and electronic thematic mini-workshops provide opportunities for scholars to link up with alumni, mentors, program leadership, and invited guests. Through these small meetings and mini-workshops, scholars share their research plans and projects with each other including lessons learned, challenges faced and strategies developed in their traineeship experience. They gain leadership skills in specific topic areas including publishing, grant management, and policy and advocacy.

## TWO STUDENTS WIN SUMMER RESEARCH AWARDS

Two GSPH students, **Luis Duran** and **Nathan Pugh**, were selected for the Short-Term Access to Research Training program (START UP) through the Clinical and Translational Science Institute at the University of Pittsburgh. The awards provide a stipend for 12 weeks during the summer of 2009.

The summer research program is for students enrolled in doctoral programs in the six schools of the health sciences at the University of Pittsburgh. The program combines an individualized mentored research experience with group sessions focused on multidisciplinary translational research. Before the start of the summer program, each student works with a mentor to develop an initial research plan. At the end of the program, the student will present the final project at a capstone event attended by all students and mentors.

Duran's project is titled "Embodiment in Public Health: Potential Applications of Existing Evidence." His primary mentor is Christopher Keane, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences. Pugh's project is, "Analysis of SNP Data Collected in the Genetic and Inflammatory Markers of Sepsis Study," and his primary mentor is Lisa Weissfeld, PhD, professor in the Department of Biostatistics.

Rachel Bailey discusses her project with Dean Burke



## 2 GSPH STUDENTS TO PRESENT POSTERS AT APHA

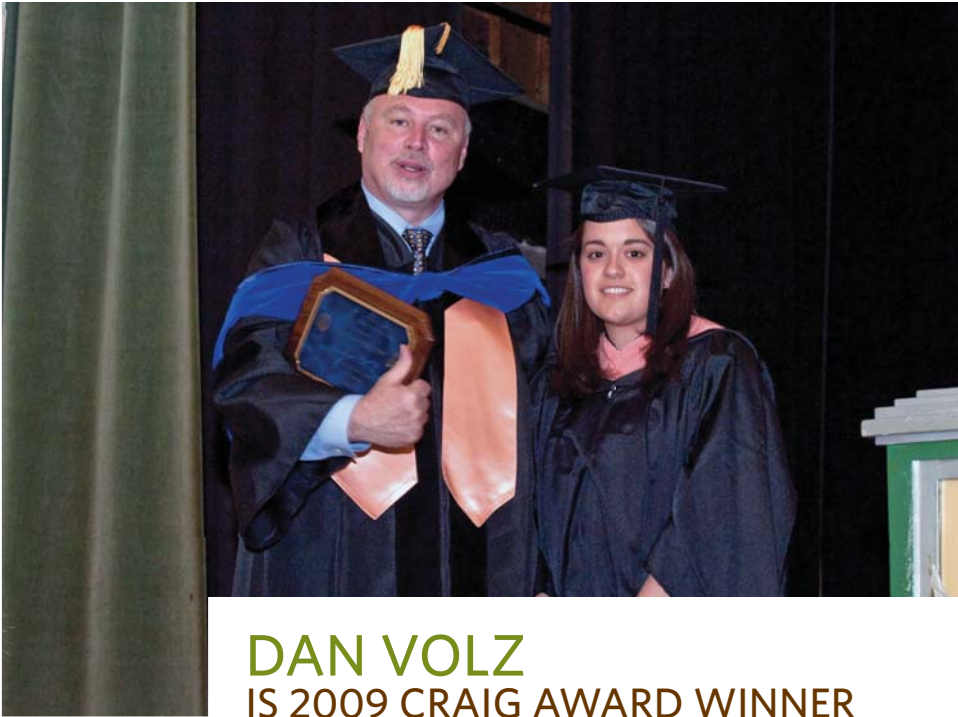
The Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health will sponsor its 12th Annual Student Poster Session during the 137th American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Exposition in Philadelphia. Two GSPH students were selected to present their work:

- **Rachel Bailey** will present her poster, "Modeling of Cost Effectiveness of Facility-wide Active Surveillance for Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in Acute Care Hospitals." Bailey earned her MPH in epidemiology in December 2008 and is currently pursuing a PhD in epidemiology at GSPH.
- **Vanessa Short** will present her poster, "Neither Mycoplasma genitalium nor Chlamydia trachomatis in Early Pregnancy Are Associated with Spontaneous Abortion Among Young Women Recruited from an Urban Emergency Department." Short earned her PhD in epidemiology this spring and in August will start the CDC/CSTE (Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists) Applied Epidemiology Fellowship at the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Local chapters of Delta Omega from accredited schools and programs of public health submitted the nominations. Nineteen students were selected to present at the poster session, which will be held 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Monday, November 9, in the Pennsylvania Convention Center. The 2009 poster session will showcase the excellent scholarship and research of students in accredited schools and programs of public health. This opportunity was created by Delta Omega to encourage and recognize the public health leaders of tomorrow.



Vanessa Short presents her research to the judges



## DAN VOLZ IS 2009 CRAIG AWARD WINNER

*Don Volz accepts the Craig Teaching Award from Tina-Marie Assi of the Student Government Association during the Convocation ceremony on April 25, 2009.*

**Conrad (Dan) Volz**, DrPH ('02), MPH ('97), assistant professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, was awarded the James L. Craig Excellence in Teaching Award during the 59th annual GSPH Convocation. Established by GSPH alumnus James L. Craig, MD, MPH ('63), this award recognizes GSPH faculty who have excelled in the teaching and mentoring of students. Craig awardees are nominated annually by GSPH students and selected by a committee of GSPH students and past Craig awardees.

### **Past Craig Award Winners**

Excellent teaching is both demanding and rewarding. We celebrate all these stellar teachers' contributions to the education of our students

*David Rowe, associate professor, IDM, 2002*

*Karen Peterson, assistant professor, BCHS, 2003*

*Todd Reinhart, associate professor, IDM, 2004*

*John Wilson, assistant professor, Biost, 2005*

*Joanne McVay, assistant professor, (retired) HAS, 2006*

*Candace Kammerer, associate professor, HuGen, 2007*

*Joel Weissfield, associate professor, EPI, 2008*

Volz is director of the Center for Healthy Environments and Communities, and director of the Environmental Health Risk Assessment Certificate Program. He teaches both Exposure Assessment and Fate and Transport of Environmental Contaminants in EOH. His research focuses on how industrial and municipal toxins and carcinogens move through the air, water, soil, and groundwater to reach people, and how to block this movement.

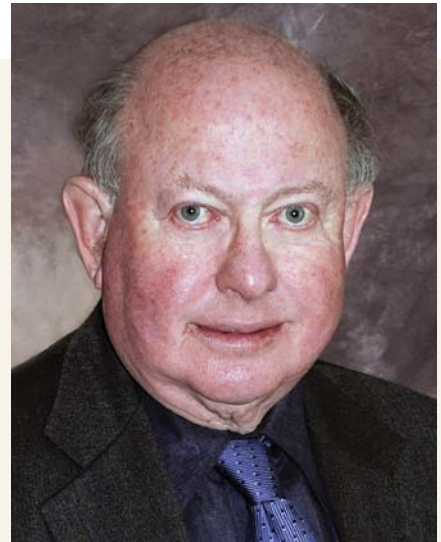
Volz is the principal investigator for the Three Rivers Fish Consumption Project, which has found significant levels of estrogen-mimicking chemicals in area channel catfish, related to bioaccumulation of pharmaceutical estrogens and xenoestrogens principally from sewer overflows. This project has also discovered dangerous and elevated levels of heavy metals, including selenium and mercury, in fish in the Allegheny River and store-bought fish.

Volz is also the principal investigator for the Allegheny River Stewardship Project of 2008, funded by the Heinz Foundation and Highmark through the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute Center for Environmental Oncology. This community-based participatory environmental research and outreach program has tested several hypotheses concerning identification of sources of pollution by sampling of fish, sediment, and water in different locations of the Allegheny River.

## KULLER HONORED BY AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

Lewis Kuller, MD, DrPH, Distinguished University Professor of Public Health in the Department of Epidemiology, has been named a Distinguished Scientist by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. This designation honors AHA/ASA members who have made extraordinary contributions to cardiovascular and stroke research. This prestigious title is bestowed on a select group of prominent scientists whose work has importantly advanced the understanding and management of cardiovascular disease and stroke.

Kuller is nationally recognized for his contributions in the study of cardiovascular disease and the use of non-invasive techniques, such as ultrasound, to detect early heart disease in people without symptoms. He has spent the past 30 years studying risk factors for individuals with heart disease and women going through menopause. In addition, as the director of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute's Cancer Control and Prevention Program since 1990, he has spent many years studying prevention of cancer and cancer risks.



**Velpandi Ayyavoo, PhD**, associate professor in the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, was invited to give a plenary talk in the Pathogenesis of Neurotropic Viruses session at the 9th International Symposium on Neurovirology held in Miami Beach, Florida, June 2-6, 2009. The title of her talk was "Insights into the Role of HIV-1 Vpr in Neuropathogenesis."

**M. Ilyas Kamboh, PhD**, has been appointed chair of the Department of Human Genetics. Kamboh, who has been serving as the interim chair since January 2005, received his bachelor's and master of science degrees from Government College, Lahore, Pakistan, with high distinction, and his doctorate in human genetics from the Australian National University. He began his academic career at the University of Pittsburgh in 1985 as a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Human Genetics, and then rapidly rose through the academic ranks in the department to become tenured professor in 1997.

Kamboh is a molecular geneticist/genetic epidemiologist and the director of a human genetics molecular laboratory. He has more than 20 years of experience working on the genetics of common diseases of public health importance, including coronary artery disease, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, and lupus.

**Sheryl F. Kelsey, PhD**, professor of epidemiology, was named Statistician of the Year by the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Statistical Association. The award recognizes career achievement and the awardee is chosen by the previous three winners.

**Howard Rockette, PhD**, stepped down as chair of the Department of Biostatistics this spring. He remains on the faculty and will continue his work in the areas of clinical trials, occupational biostatistics, and estimation theory. Gary Marsh, PhD, is serving as interim chair of the department until a permanent chair is named.

**Yuting Zhang, PhD**, assistant professor in the Department of Health Policy & Management, was awarded an Excellence in Mental Health Policy and Economics Research Award by the International Center of Mental Health Policy and Economics. The award was for her article, "Cost-Saving Effects of Olanzapine as Long-Term Treatment for Bipolar Disorder," which appeared in the *Journal of Mental Health Policy and Economics* 2008; 11(3): 135-146. The award was presented during the Ninth Workshop on Costs and Assessment in Psychiatry: Quality and Outcomes in Mental Health Policy and Economics, held in March 27-29, 2009, in Venice, Italy.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Herman Cember, PhD**, passed away on March 7, 2009, in Indianapolis, Indiana, at the age of 85. Cember was instrumental in starting the radiological health program at GSPH and served as the radiation safety officer for the University. He also received master's and doctoral degrees from Pitt in biophysics. At the time of his death, he was an adjunct professor at Purdue University School of Health Sciences and was an emeritus professor at Northwestern University, where he had been a professor of environmental health for more than 30 years.

## Stephen Thomas Assumes Diversity Post Angela Ford to Direct Center for Minority Health

**Stephen Thomas, PhD**, who had served as the director of the Center for Minority Health (CMH) since 2000, recently became GSPH's first associate dean for diversity. Thomas is a nationally recognized expert on racial and ethnic health disparities and has pioneered innovative programs to improve minority health and increase the participation of African Americans in biomedical and public health research.

In addition to devoting more time to conduct his research as principal investigator of the NIH Research Center of Excellence in Minority Health Disparities and other research activities, Thomas will now be principal advisor on diversity issues at GSPH. He will build upon his previous successes in promoting diversity among students and faculty, such as securing GSPH as one of the sites of the prestigious Kellogg Health Scholars Program.



**Angela Ford, PhD**, has been named executive director of the Center for Minority Health. She served as the associate director of CMH since 1996 and is widely acknowledged for her expertise in community relations. She will carry on the work of the center and initiate new programs to keep the center at the forefront of national minority health research, practice, and policy development.

Ford was honored this past spring with the Chancellor's Award for Staff Excellence in Service to the University. The award was created to recognize staff members whose performance exceeds the standards and expectations of their positions, and who make a significant impact on the University through their commitment and performance. Chancellor Mark Nordenberg noted of Ford's nomination that, "The [selection] committee was deeply impressed with the number of public health initiatives and agencies you support. The many letters sent on your behalf describe the countless ways in which you reach out to every available resource to find help for others."

*Stephen Thomas, PhD*



*Angela Ford, PhD, MSW*

*"The many letters sent on your behalf describe the countless ways in which you reach out to every available resource to find help for others."*





## **\$8.4 MILLION AWARDED** FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS RESEARCH

Because acting quickly and effectively during major disasters often means the difference between life and death on a large scale, the federal government is looking for ways to improve preparedness and emergency response systems across the country.

As part of this effort, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has awarded \$8.4 million over the next five years to GSPH to create a Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center. The center's experts will develop methods to evaluate emergency response plans and best practices to handle public health emergencies caused by the spread of infectious diseases, defective water and sewage systems, natural disasters, or intentional acts.

"The capacity of local governments to respond to public health disasters varies greatly from region to region," said Maggie Potter, JD, principal investigator of the grant and associate dean and director of the Center for Public Health Practice at GSPH.

"We know the difference between a poor response and an effective one based on actual outcomes, but we know much less about the underlying reasons why some plans work well and others fail."

Potter and her team will focus initially on infectious diseases, such as the flu, to develop criteria and metrics for emergency preparedness, model their effectiveness using sophisticated computer-based techniques and develop new standards for emergency responses to improve quality of life for community members.

"Public health emergencies create heavy demands on state and local health agencies, but by using these quantitative methods, we can target the spending for preparedness more wisely and make better decisions about handling emergencies when they arise," Potter said.

The center also will focus on emergency preparedness in vulnerable communities—those who typically lack access to resources and services.

"We know from research and experiences like Hurricane Katrina that race, ethnicity, poverty, disability, age, and other factors that affect health status during routine times put individuals and families at greater risk during an emergency. Our research will help public

health systems be more effective at protecting diverse communities," said Sandra Quinn, PhD, co-principal investigator of the grant and associate dean of Student Affairs and Education at GSPH. "Part of our center will focus on how we can develop a more integrated and comprehensive approach to emergency planning that includes more marginalized communities who aren't typically part of that process."

The GSPH center is one of seven being established and funded nationwide by the CDC over the next five years. Co-investigators at the GSPH center include Donald S. Burke, MD; Samuel Stebbins, MD, MPH; Patricia M. Sweeney, JD, RN, MPH; Joshua Epstein, PhD (also affiliated with the Brookings Institution); Louise Comfort, PhD; Russell Schuh, EdD; and Chyongchiou Jeng Lin, PhD.

## EXPANDING STUDENTS' HORIZONS GLOBAL TRAVEL GRANTS ALLOW STUDENTS TO PURSUE PROJECTS ABROAD

In addition to being the GSPH dean, Donald S. Burke, MD, also holds the position of associate vice chancellor for global health and head of the Center for Global Health at the University of Pittsburgh. It was in that role that he instituted a Student Global Travel Grant program in the 2007-08 academic year. Full-time, degree-seeking masters or doctoral students from GSPH and the other five health sciences schools, as well as those from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and the School of Law, are eligible to apply. The application must propose a research project must address a global health issue, and preference is given to projects conducted in a developing country or resource-poor setting.

The first of these grants were awarded in 2008, and the students who received them conducted their travel and research over the summer. The grants are used for ground and air transportation to and from the project site, lodging and meal expenses while participating in the project, visa and immunization expenses required for travel to the project site, and other direct project-related expenses, with the exception of computers or equipment.

GSPH students who were awarded grants in 2008 are Kafuli Abegmenu, Alina Bodea-Crisan, April Carman, Sheng-Chia Chung, Ashley Felix, Christian Frenopaulo, Supriya Kumar, Elon Mwara, Chimeremma Nnadi, and Margaret Whelan.



GSPH students who were awarded travel grants this year, and are currently completing their projects, are:

- **Kristina Bacon**, Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, The War on Worms: Cebu City Project in the Philippines
- **Jessica Brehm**, Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, Resistance to Antiretroviral Therapy in South Africa
- **Meghan Bryne**, Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, Medical Oppression and Cervical Cancer Rates in the Women of Patzcuaro, Michoacan, Mexico
- **Andrea Dunlavy**, Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, Social Determinants of Child Injuries in Tanzania: Risk and Protective Factors
- **Annie Nagy**, Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, Evaluation of HIV/AIDS Prevention Program Targeted for the Cameroon Military

*Carman with Clareann Bunker, PhD, MPH, associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology, who is investigating risk factors for low birth weight in rural India.*

Students who have completed their projects will make presentations about their research during the University's International Week events. International Week 2009 is September 28-October 2.

**April Carman**, who graduated with an MPH from the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences this spring, used her 2008 grant award to support her travel to Hyderabad, India, to take part in the Hyderabad Children's Study. She was also awarded a scholarship from the India Room Scholarship Committee as part of the University's Nationality Rooms Scholarship program. Carman shared the following excerpts from her journal and photos from her travels.

### June 3 - Arrival in Hyderabad

The night bus to Hyderabad was an experience akin to the fastest, curviest ride at Kings Dominion or Kennywood, but without sunlight to show you the horror and turns that you are rapidly approaching. We made sure to blend in with local fashion by wearing our blue eye masks from our Air France flight. I think we looked like a pair of enormously tall and pale bugs.

### June 6 - Local Partners

The Science Health & Allied Research Education (SHARE) India office is located in a very rural area called Medchal, just north of Hyderabad. SHARE is the organization with which I am working this summer in preparation for a large maternal-child health study.

### June 12 - Feasibility

My main goal is to work through the feasibility of conducting a large maternal-child health study in rural Medchal, just north of Hyderabad. The REACH project has many health initiatives in 40 local villages. Community health volunteers (CHVs) work hard in their individual villages to encourage women to seek prenatal care, make sure all infants and children receive the full schedule of immunizations, provide health education, distribute vitamins to women of childbearing age, and generally help keep track of the flock.

SHARE also has a medical school, nursing school, and the MediCiti hospital serving the area. This rural hospital provides much-needed medical services to villagers, services that are not available in other rural parts of India.

The combination of affordable, local health care and the door-to-door efforts of the CHVs has made considerable improvement in the maternal and infant mortality rates in Medchal. The childhood immunization rates are also well above national rates, somewhere around 96 percent in the 40 REACH villages. However, despite these efforts and health improvements, the infant mortality rate remains higher than expected and 30 percent of newborns—across India—are born weighing less than 2.5 kilograms (5.5 pounds).

With this infrastructure, SHARE, REACH and GSPH are hoping to investigate why low birth weight remains so common in this rural part of India. Enter the LIFE (Longitudinal Indian Family HEalth ) study. Acronyms seem to be an important part of the Indian culture.

I will be going through many steps of the study to determine how it can all be done in rural villages. This week I met with several OB/GYNs and nurses to ensure we can collect the data (vital signs, blood samples, etc.) that we'll need and editing data collection forms to follow the standards of local medical care and culture. I also spoke with lab's director to determine which tests can be run. I also will be collaborating with the CHVs to decide how women can be recruited into the study and determine the most culturally appropriate ways to present information about the study to local women. Eventually, I will also pilot the health questionnaire with a handful of willing village women to make sure the questions are appropriate and the answers they give are actually the ones we intended to obtain! This of course, I will do with my trusty English-Telugu translator. A tall order, no shortage of work here.

### June 23 - Work, Work, Work

My first weeks here were spent meeting MIMS physicians, observing patient care in the antenatal care clinic and L&D ward and trying to gain an understand of how health services are delivered here. Most of this is so we can "seamlessly" add our research study to the existing structure. Later, we have to determine how we will obtain some of our samples and questionnaires within the villages. Can you say "feasibility study" in Telugu? Me neither.

In addition to our collaborators at SHARE, we are working with a technical institute and a training institute that will help us look at environmental exposures, gender roles, and socio-economic-status related to pregnancies and birth outcomes. We'll be measuring pesticide residues on the local rice supply, testing local water sources, administering questionnaires to pregnant women and their husbands about pesticide use and potential exposure, as well as testing mothers' and newborns' blood, breast milk, and meconium to determine exposures.

We've been working on a lengthy questionnaire concerning all these topics and more. It's hard to agree on topics and questions with representatives from one organization. It's a true test of patience and professionalism to develop a comprehensible, comprehensive, and not-to-lengthy questionnaire with representatives from four organizations.

### June 28 - Visiting MESCO schools

Today we went on a long excursion with Wallace Bang. Wallace grew up around Hyderabad and later moved to Youngstown, Ohio, where he was a professor and his wife an anesthesiologist. Since retirement (he's now 80) he has been splitting his time between Detroit and the educational NGO he loves in Hyderabad, the Muslim Education & Social Cultural Organization (MESCO). This organization has been working in the slums of Hyderabad for the past 25 years and strives to meet the educational needs of the small Muslim minority around the state of Andhra Pradesh. In the poorest parts of the city it has built or rehabbed dozens of schools.

The tour today was amazing, and exhausting. The children were beautiful, at first very shy, but their curiosity got the best of them. All it took on our part were a few hellos and then the giggling, greetings, and handshakes never ended.

### July 2 - Toto, we're not in Kansas anymore...

After spending two to four hours in transit each day of the past three weeks through the busy streets of Hyderabad, we've made the move out to a staff apartment on the MIMS campus. MIMS is in a very rural area, in Ghanpur village; there is no grocery store, no movie theater, no traffic light, no TV, no clothing shops. But what Ghanpur lacks in amenities, it makes up in charm.

This week my work is focused on revising our extensive questionnaires. After obtaining feedback from our local collaborators, I am attempting to incorporate environmental health, gender equality, and family demographics questions as well as other revisions that aim to make the questionnaire more rural-Indian-culture appropriate.

### July 12 - Golconda Fort

Jamey and I, and our friend Lindsay, decided we needed a day away from our laptops. We were tourists for a day. We wore western clothing, carried our cameras proudly and wandered through unfamiliar parts of Hyderabad. After more than three hours of exploring the hill fort that is Golconda, we took another auto to Charminar. There we browsed dozens of stalls, stores & street vendors through mob-like crowds of shoppers, trying to make sure we three stuck together. ■■■

# EVENTS



## NANCY BRINKER AWARDED PORTER PRIZE

Nancy Brinker, founder of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the 18th recipient of the Porter Prize, was honored at a reception on March 12, 2009. The Porter Prize, awarded in recognition of an individual's exceptional performance in health promotion and disease prevention, is named in honor of Milton Porter, who was among the first industrialists in the country to view the workplace as a site for wellness programs.

Susan G. Komen for the Cure, named for Brinker's sister, who passed away from breast cancer, has fostered the largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists in the world. Brinker's vision, commitment, and leadership in improving health outcomes internationally exemplify the spirit of the Porter Prize.

During her remarks at the reception, Brinker noted the role that the University of Pittsburgh had played in the fight against polio and how, when Jonas Salk and his team announced the safety and efficacy of the polio vaccine, the atmosphere around the country was akin to the end of a war. She noted that polio and breast cancer are vastly different diseases, but that the lesson is the same.

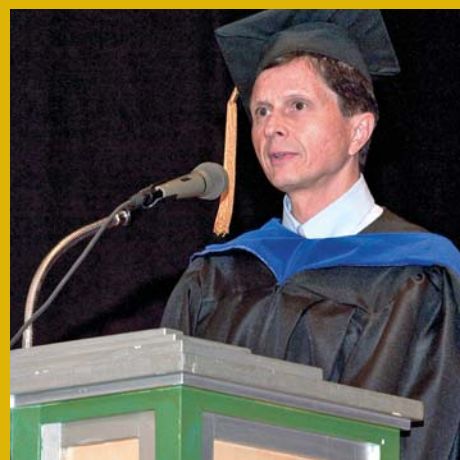
"Our destiny—our health—is still in our hands," she said. "...If we can make breast cancer a global priority, if we can forge an approach that is not simply anti-disease, but pro-health, not simply treatment, but prevention, then we too can imagine a day when another scientific breakthrough changes the world; when the mastectomy—like the iron lungs of the polio era—is an artifact of history; and when church bells might ring again because our war on cancer has ended, in victory."

*From left, GSPH Dean Donald S. Burke, MD; Porter Prize recipient Nancy Brinker; and Lee Foster, chairman of the Porter Prize committee and nephew of Milton Porter, for whom the prize is named.*

## GSPH CONVOCATION

The 59th GSPH Convocation was held on April 25, 2009. David L. Heymann, MD, recently retired as assistant director-general for health security environment and representative of the director-general for polio eradication at the World Health Organization (WHO), delivered the convocation address: "Images Past and Future: Our Destiny in Public Health."

This convocation honored those graduates who earned their degrees in June, August, and December 2008, as well as April 2009 graduates.



*David Heymann, MD, delivers the convocation address.*



Robert Engel in front of the display of his GSPH memorabilia. In the background is an enlargement of a photo of the health services administration class of 1958, with Engel's face circled.

### Alumnus Robert Engel Lends Memorabilia to GSPH

Robert Engel, who earned his MPH in health services administration in 1958, loaned some of his GSPH memorabilia for a display in the lobby of Parran Hall. The articles he loaned include his original sheepskin diploma, his student ID card, and his acceptance letter signed by Thomas Parran, MD, the first dean of GSPH. Our thanks to Engel for sharing his memories with us and the entire GSPH community.

### Foster Community Lecture in Alzheimer's Disease Educates Caregivers

The Jay L. Foster Memorial Community Lecture in Alzheimer's Disease, held June 10, 2009, was delivered by Jason Karlawish, MD, associate professor of medicine and medical ethics at the University of Pennsylvania and director of the Alzheimer's Disease Center's Education and Information Transfer Core. His other appointments include associate director of the Memory Disorders Clinic, fellow of the Center for Bioethics, senior fellow of the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, and senior fellow of the Institute on Aging.



From left, Lee Foster, son of the late Jay L. Foster; Jason Karlawish, MD; Penny Foster, daughter of Jay L. Foster; and Steven Albert, PhD, chairman of the Foster Lecture Committee.

His talk, "The Making and Unmaking of Alzheimer's Disease," addressed the controversy in the medical community over diagnosing the disorder and the consequences that has for treatment. The address was followed by questions from the audience. Joining Karlawish in answering audience questions were Steven Albert, PhD, co-principal investigator of the GSPH Center for

Healthy Aging; Leslie Dunn, MPH, director, University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer Disease Research Center; and David Fetterman, MDiv, MEd, director of education and community outreach coordinator, Center for Healthy Aging.

The Foster Lecture series was founded by the family of Jay L. Foster, who died of Alzheimer's disease in July 2000 at the age of 83. The community lecture educates family members, caregivers, and others who are faced with the daily struggle of dealing with Alzheimer's disease. From their own experience, the Foster family learned that knowledge about the illness is an important factor in coping with its effects on family and friends, especially the pain of watching a loved one decline.

## UPCOMING GSPH EVENTS

### New Student Orientation

AUGUST 27 - 28, 2009

### GSPH Picnic and First Day of Classes

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2009

### Pitt International Week

SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 3

### Anne C. Sonis Memorial Lecture

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2009, 12 P.M.  
S120 BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE TOWER

Thomas Lee, MD, network president, Partners Healthcare System Inc., Boston, will present a lecture titled, "Chaos and Organization in Healthcare." A reception will follow in Room S100A BST. This lecture is sponsored by the Center for Research on Health Care, Department of Health Policy & Management, and the family of Anne C. Sonis.

### Open House for Prospective Students

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2009

### APHA Annual Meeting and Exposition

NOVEMBER 7 - 11, 2009  
PHILADELPHIA

### Thomas Parran Lecture

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2009

Lecture by Kenneth E. Warner, PhD, dean of the University of Michigan School of Public Health and director of the University of Michigan Tobacco Research Network

# DEVELOPMENT

## GSPH'S DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT REFLECTS ON HER FIRST YEAR AT GSPH

Apryl Eshelman joined the Graduate School of Public Health as director of development in February 2008. Here she shares some thoughts about her first year at GSPH and about philanthropy in tough economic times.

### Public Health Quarterly sat down with Eshelman for a Q&A session.

**PHQ:** *In your first year at GSPH, you spent a lot of time getting to know the school and the people. What one thing impressed you the most about the school?*

**AE:** *I am especially impressed by the number of leadership positions, both national and international, that the school holds. While I think that our prominence in healthy aging and health disparities is fairly well known by people in Western Pennsylvania, it was a surprise to me to learn about our leadership in AIDS, diabetes, and breast cancer research, and policy areas such as Medicare and emergency preparedness.*

*Each student and faculty member I have talked with is deeply committed and enthusiastic about his or her work. It is no wonder that GSPH is a leader in public health education and research.*

**PHQ:** *You have also talked with many of our alumni. What are the recurring themes of these discussions?*

**AE:** *The very best part of my job in reaching out to our alumni is calling people to thank them for a recent gift to GSPH and to introduce myself. Typically, I have access to a person's department and graduation year before I pick up the phone which often will allow me to ask a specific question about their experiences at GSPH. Most people respond with great enthusiasm, describing the particular classroom or lab incidents or reminiscing about wonderful times socializing with fellow students and faculty. Many of these personal connections have been maintained through the years.*

*In addition to fond memories of GSPH, another theme is appreciation. Gratitude is often expressed for scholarship support, guidance through the program by a particular faculty member, or career guidance and position referral. One gentleman commented that he owes 75 percent of everything he has done in his career to Dr. Carol Redmond. Another gentleman reflected that he started working on a project with DuPont while a student here and ended up completing a 30-year-plus career at that company as their first staff biostatistician.*

**PHQ:** *Isn't asking people for money, even for a cause as worthy as GSPH, difficult?*

**AE:** *Actually, I don't look at it that way. Everyone wants to do good. Truly, nearly everyone in America donates to one cause or another each year. My role is to provide opportunities for people to satisfy their need to contribute to society—to do good. Primarily through our faculty, dean, and members of the Board of Visitors, I help to educate people about the great work that the school is doing and the ongoing need for qualified public health researchers and policy makers.*

*Some alumni are motivated by a sense of wanting to give back to GSPH for their own education and related success. Other people simply want to invest in what the school is doing because they believe in the quality and the importance of the education and the ongoing research. Supporting GSPH is a wonderful way to honor someone who has made some aspect of GSPH their life's work. Perhaps a donor wishes to create a legacy at the school by supporting a particular program or body of research, or by funding a scholarship that will permit promising students to attend GSPH. There are many reasons why people donate to GSPH. Always, it is an investment in something they believe in.*

**PHQ:** *Alumni are obviously an important source of support for the school. Given the difficult economic times and number of worthy causes competing for philanthropic dollars, what do you think motivates alumni to give to GSPH?*

**AE:** *Everyone knows that charitable giving comes from the heart. However, I think it often comes from the head as well. When a person has enjoyed a positive educational experience—or has greatly benefited in his or her career because of what he or she experienced at graduate school—then it is a natural response for the person to want to support that institution and to help ensure that it will be able to provide similar benefits for future generations. Whatever it is that stands out as a positive—a scholarship for example or the special interest a particular professor showed in a student—that is often the motivation a person has to give back. The heart is grateful and the head says that GSPH is a worthwhile institution to support.*

GSPH director of development Apryl Eshelman will work with you to ensure that your gift to GSPH meets your charitable giving goals.



If you have questions about planned gifts—  
or any type of gifts—to GSPH, please  
contact Apryl Eshelman at **412-624-5639**  
or e-mail her at **Eshelman@pitt.edu**.

The downturn in the economy has given some of our alums pause about making a particularly large gift to the University. When the economy improves, I anticipate that the level of current giving to GSPH will also rise. In the meantime, the need for scholarship support in particular is especially acute as our students are having more difficulty being approved for loans or are paying tuition from diminished funds set aside for their educations.

**PHQ:** We all know that donors of very large gifts to charity can change lives. But what impact can smaller donations make?

**AE:** People too often don't realize what an amazing impact they can make with small gifts over a long period of time. For example, there is an increasing need in GSPH for support for scholarship funds. The ability to offer tuition assistance helps us attract the best and brightest students. Financial support is also critically needed to upgrade the physical plant of the school. Together, people can make a big difference. No matter the size of a gift, I am always happy to work with donors to determine exactly how they would like for their gifts to be used.

**PHQ:** What are some creative ways, especially attractive during this economic recession, that people can support GSPH?

**AE:** There are several scenarios that might apply. For example, for someone who would like to be able to make a contribution to GSPH but is concerned about first taking care of personal or family obligations, a planned gift can offer a great opportunity to achieve both goals. A bequest in a will, a beneficiary designation on a life insurance policy or a retirement account, or a remainder interest in a trust are easily accomplished, and these gifts do not take effect until the death of the donor.

For an alumnus who is concerned about having an adequate income during life, there are charitable gift vehicles, such as charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts, which can provide a guaranteed stream of income to the donor backed by the financial strength of the University, with the balance eventually going to support the school. For example, a person 80 years old could earn over 7 percent guaranteed for the rest of his or her life through a Charitable Gift Annuity, with the residual of the annuity becoming a gift to GSPH. The minimum investment is \$10,000.

**PHQ:** GSPH has a number of generous alumni who make annual contributions. Given the extent to which the school relies upon these gifts, can you suggest a planned giving vehicle that could help to alleviate this loss when a contributor is no longer able to make his or her yearly gift?

**AE:** As costs for research, education, and practice and policy activities continue to climb, annual gifts from caring alumni take on an even greater importance. Taken as a whole, the consistent generosity of these many contributors is something the school relies on in order to provide such essential things as scholarship support, technology upgrades, and support for special programs. When a long-time annual gift is no longer available, the school must make up for that significant loss. One way that a contributor can make certain that his or her gift will continue to provide support in perpetuity is by endowing the annual gift. This can be accomplished quite simply either during a donor's lifetime or through an end-of-life gift (such as a bequest in a will).

Let's say for example that you make an annual gift of \$1,000 to GSPH. If you wanted to ensure that this gift would continue in perpetuity, an endowed gift of \$24,000 would be a reasonable replacement for the annual gift. Individual endowed funds are added to the University's Consolidated Investment Pool, which was established to manage and invest the University's endowed funds. I would be pleased to assist anyone who may have an interest in this kind of legacy gift to benefit GSPH.

**PHQ:** Does a donor need a minimum amount in order to establish a planned gift?

**AE:** No. Anyone can make a planned gift of any amount. A bequest in a will, a beneficiary designation on a paid-up life insurance policy, or a future gift of securities are all examples of planned gifts that can run the gamut from modest to major—and all are greatly appreciated and can help to make a positive impact on the school.

# DEAN'S GIFT TARGETED TO IMPROVING THE FACE OF GSPH

A world-class school of public health should have facilities to match. "But it's no secret that a major upgrade to our physical plant is long overdue," said GSPH Dean Donald S. Burke, MD. GSPH is now in the planning stages for renovations to Parran and Crabtree Halls and construction of new laboratory space, but Dean Burke wants to ensure that the appearance of the school reflects the quality of our academic and research programs. He has already implemented several physical plant upgrades, such as the LCD panel message boards and the renovation of the faculty meeting room, 109 Parran Hall.

To help sustain the pace of these changes, Dean Burke and his wife, Jane, recently made a five-year pledge of \$50,000 to GSPH that they earmarked for aesthetic improvements. An early target will be the Community Commons which will receive a facelift in the form of live plants and new artwork. Art will also be added to the faculty meeting room to complete the beautification and modernization of that key space.

"These are small steps, to be sure," said Dean Burke. "But we want to show students, faculty, and staff that we are committed to providing the best learning and work environment possible. When the renovations are complete GSPH will be a markedly improved facility."

Would you like to make a gift to improve the face of GSPH? Contact GSPH director of development Apryl Eshelman at 412-624-5639 or [eshelman@pitt.edu](mailto:eshelman@pitt.edu) to find out how.



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GSPh deeply appreciates the generous gifts from all donors who provided much needed support in fiscal year 2008 (July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008).

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### IN HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH AND POLICY FINISHES FIRST YEAR

Beginning with the fall 2008 term, GSPH offered a doctorate in health services research and policy through the Department of Health Policy & Management (HPM). "Health services research is the basic science for understanding health care reform," said Howard Degenholtz, PhD, associate professor and director of the new program. "Health care reform is once again at the top of the national agenda, and graduates of this program will be well-positioned to make contributions to the important policy discussions that will take place."

Health services researchers analyze the cost, access, and quality of health care systems. Individual students can focus their research on policies at the national, state, and local levels; on the management and operation of organizations or public health agencies; or on the experience of individual users of health care and public health services.

The doctoral program is also the sponsor of a new seminar series in health economics, a joint effort of HPM, Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz School, and the RAND Corporation. Every other week, health economists from the local community meet to discuss their current research.

The program has generated great interest in this country and internationally. The program is able to fund two students per year through support from GSPH and HPM, with the hope of growing the program through fellowships and research stipends. The first two students enrolled in the program are Kalyani Gopalan and Preet Ghuman. Gopalan graduated from the Heinz School of Public Policy at CMU and works in quality improvement at Western Psychiatric Institute & Clinic. Ghuman comes from Boston University and is focusing on strategic management and organizational behavior.

For more information on the program, visit [www.hsrp.pitt.edu](http://www.hsrp.pitt.edu) or contact Kristin Lazzara at 412-624-3625 or [klazzara@pitt.edu](mailto:klazzara@pitt.edu).

## PHOTO OF THE QUARTER

# World-Renowned Infectious Disease Expert Feted at Pitt Book Launch



*From left, Donald S. Burke, MD, Pitt associate vice chancellor for global health; D.A. Henderson, MD; and the Honorable Tommy Thompson, former HHS secretary.*

D.A. Henderson, MD, was honored on the occasion of the publication of his book, *Smallpox: The Death of a Disease*, in which he chronicles the 10-year fight to eliminate smallpox, the first infectious disease ever eradicated from the human species. On June 4, 2009, there was a public reception sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh and its Center for Global Health, headed by Donald S. Burke, MD, associate vice chancellor for global health and dean of the Graduate School of Public Health. Among the dignitaries in attendance was The Honorable Tommy Thompson, former secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. On June 5, the Center for Global Health sponsored a book signing at the Pitt Book Center. Henderson is a distinguished scholar in the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's Center for Biosecurity and is a Pitt professor of public health and medicine.



**COMING IN  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
QUARTERLY  
FALL 2009**

**Results of the GSPH  
Alumni Career Survey**

Almost 1,000 alumni participated in this comprehensive look at our graduates' career paths. We'll share what we learned and how GSPH will use the results to continuously improve how we prepare students for careers in public health.



# University of Pittsburgh

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