



NOTABLE NEWS //

TREVOR ORCHARD APPOINTED DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

Dr. Trevor Orchard, professor of epidemiology, has been appointed to the rank of Distinguished Professor of the University of Pittsburgh. Professor Orchard is a preeminent researcher and international leader in the epidemiology, prevention and treatment of diabetes who has sustained the highest possible level of productivity in all areas of research, teaching and service. One of the most significant accomplishments is his work in type 1 diabetes in the Pittsburgh Epidemiology of Diabetes Complications Study. He launched this project over 29 years ago, building on a registry of patients with type 1 diabetes established at the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, conducting biennial clinical and laboratory examinations for several hundred participants with type 1 diabetes. He has received numerous awards and honors. He was the recipient of a Special Emphasis Research Career Award from The NIH (1980-1985); the Kelly West Award from the American Diabetes Association (1993); Charles Best Medal (Awarded to members of the Diabetes Control and Complications Trial) (1994); George Lukin’s Award, American Diabetes Association, PA Affiliate (1996); Pitt Innovator Award, University of Pittsburgh Office of the Provost and Office of Technology Management (2008); and the Stanley Wallach Lectureship Award, American College of Nutrition (2010). He was recognized with Provost’s Award for Mentorship in 2014 for his contributions to teaching. His service to the University, the Department and the research community has been exceptional. In addition to



Dr. Trevor Orchard

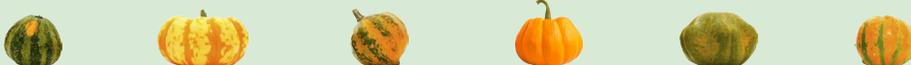
...serving on many committees, he has twice served as Interim Chair of the Department of Epidemiology (2002-03 and 2008-10). Professor Orchard also maintains a global presence in the development of an international program designed to extend care to developing countries, called Life for a Child. For the last 8 years, Professor Orchard has been assisting local leaders with the development of diabetes care in Rwanda and conducted a clinical trial of a new care system. This program continues through the efforts of Professor Orchard and his students, providing MPH students with practicum opportunities in Rwanda. As we congratulate Dr. Orchard on this appointment, we look forward to his presentation of a future Provost’s lecture to mark this milestone.

CATERINA ROSANO PROMOTED TO PROFESSOR

Dr. Caterina Rosano has been promoted to the rank of Professor of Epidemiology. Dr. Rosano is an established leader in Neuroepidemiology locally, nationally and internationally. She is Principal Investigator of three R-01 grants to study brain resilience in diverse populations including older adults and middle aged adults with type 1 diabetes. She also leads a U13 conference grant on brain aging and is Core Leader for the Clinical and Population Research Core for the Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center. She has or is currently mentoring doctoral students, post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty. She is currently a permanent member of an NIH study Section and editor of Neuroepidemiology-Handbook of Clinical Neurology. Congratulations!



Dr. Caterina Rosano



NOTABLE NEWS : CONTINUED //**EXPANDING THE ROLE OF DIABETES EDUCATORS**

American Journal of Managed Care
June 8, 2015

A study funded by the American Diabetes Association and presented as its 75th Scientific Sessions in Boston examined what would happen if certified diabetes educators (CDEs) were attached to primary care practices in a meaningful way—with access to the electronic health record (EHR), the ability to recommend prescriptions, and, most of all, easier access to patients themselves. Results showed justification for expanding the role of CDEs in primary care—assuming practices can find ways to pay for it. Presented by Janice C. Zgibor, RPh, Ph.D, an associate professor of epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh, the study was a randomized controlled trial that used CDEs in 2 different groups across 15 nonacademic practices. »



Dr. Janice Zgibor

WELCOME: ASHLEY NAIMI

Dr. Ashley I. Naimi has joined the department of epidemiology in the Graduate School of Public Health, effective August 1, 2015 as Visiting Assistant Professor. He is joining us from an appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at McGill University. Dr. Naimi obtained his PhD in Epidemiology with a minor in Biostatistics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. During his doctoral training, he received the UNC Graduate Dissertation Fellowship award and was also awarded with the department's Berton H. Kaplan Student Publication Award. He completed a Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship in the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health at McGill University, where he was funded by a prestigious training award from the Fonds de Recherche en Santé du Québec. Using experimental and non-experimental data, he aims to develop and apply analytic methods in causal inference modeling to target specific research questions on how to mitigate disparities in perinatal health. Please welcome him to the department.



Dr. Ashley Naimi

EARLY HIV TREATMENT IMPROVES SURVIVAL IN SOME PATIENTS WITH NEWLY DIAGNOSED TUBERCULOSIS

Annals of Internal Medicine
July 7, 2015

In a study published in the current issue of Annals of Internal Medicine, a team led by Dr. Jean Nachega, associate professor of epidemiology, reported that starting anti-HIV treatment within two weeks of the diagnosis of tuberculosis, or TB, improved survival among patients with both infections who had very low immune-cell counts, according to an analysis by researchers. Those with strong immune systems, however, might benefit from waiting until after the end of the six-month TB treatment before initiating anti-HIV therapy, they found. »



Dr. Jean Nachega

OBESITY-RELATED CAUSES OF STILLBIRTH DETAILED IN PITT ANALYSIS

University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences
August 26, 2015

Obese women are nearly twice as likely as their lean counterparts to have stillborn babies for several specific, potentially preventable medical reasons, a new University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health analysis reveals. “We’ve known for some time that obese women are more likely to have stillbirths, but this is one of the first and most comprehensive efforts to figure out why,” said lead author Lisa Bodnar, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.D., associate professor in Pitt Public Health’s Department of Epidemiology. “Our hope is that this work can be used to better counsel women on the importance of a healthy pre-pregnancy weight and monitor them for complications during pregnancy that may threaten the survival of their fetuses.” »



Dr. Lisa Bodnar

JIAN- MIN YUAN FEATURED IN UNIVERSITY TIMES

Pitt Chronicle
July 6, 2015

Pitt cancer epidemiologist and Arnold Palmer Endowed Chair in Cancer Prevention, Dr. Jian-Min Yuan was featured in the Pitt Chronicle, July 6, 2015, in an assessment of the 2014-15 year at the University by Chancellor Patrick Gallagher. Dr. Yuan's National Cancer Institute grant to support two studies examining how environmental and lifestyle factors and genetics have affected the incidence of mortality and age-related outcomes of cancer in more than 81,000 Chinese men and women was front and center. »



Dr. Jian-Min Yuan

MENOPAUSE ASSOCIATED WITH MORE FAT AROUND HEART

University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences
July 22, 2015

Late- and post-menopausal women have significantly greater volumes of fat around their hearts than their pre-menopausal counterparts, clinical data from women enrolled in the Study of Women's health Across the Nation (SWAN) has shown for the first time. Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in women, and it increases after age 50 – the average age when a woman is going through menopause," said lead author Samar R. El Khoudary, Ph.D., M.P.H., assistant professor in Pitt Public Health's department of epidemiology. "By showing that menopause appears to be associated with a shift in fat deposits that leads to more fat around the heart, we've uncovered a new potential contributor to increased risk of cardiovascular disease in women." Additional authors on this study are senior author Karen Matthews, Ph.D Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and professor of epidemiology and Emma Barinas-Mitchell, Ph.D, assistant professor of epidemiology. »



Dr. Samar El Khoudary

BARI 2D IN THE NEWS

Two important manuscripts from the Bypass Angio-plasty Investigation Revascularization 2 Diabetes (BARI 2D) trial were published in August, 2015 along with associated editorials.

BARI 2D



BARI 2D was coordinated at the Epidemiology Data Center at Pitt Public Health. The first paper was published in the New England Journal of Medicine, '**Troponin and cardiac events in stable ischemic heart disease and diabetes**'. Dr. Maria Brooks, associate professor of epidemiology and biostatistics is a co-author along with Helen Vlachos, MS. The second appeared in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, '**Comprehensive Cardiovascular Risk Factor Control Improves Survival: The Bypass Angioplasty Revascularization Investigation 2 Diabetes (BARI 2D) Trial**' and Dr. Marnie Bertolet, assistant professor of epidemiology is a co-author. This article was the journal's featured CME activity.



Dr. Neelima

EPIDEMIOLOGY SPECIAL SEMINAR

On July 16, 2015, SHARE INDIA/MediCiti Institute of Medical Sciences Faculty Fogarty Trainees presented on their research projects in India.

Pictured: Dr. Neelima, Assistant Professor of Microbiology, MediCiti Insitute of Medical Sciences, Ghanpur Village, India.



Tamala Gondwe

EPI DOCTORAL STUDENT FEATURED

Trib Total Media
August 11, 2015

Tamala Gondwe a doctoral student at Pitt Public Health received a 2015-16 Albert Schweitzer Fellowship and was featured as a 'Newsmaker' in the Tribune Review. »

STUDENT CORNER //

DRPH STUDENT INITIATIVE OPENS DOOR TO TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE

Great practicums and internships all begin with an idea. But how does an idea evolve into an extraordinary and meaningful experience? Ask Anne Ritter, MPH, a DrPH Epidemiology student, who completed her practicum at the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) at its national headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. DVBIC is the traumatic brain injury (TBI) operational component of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE).



Anne Ritter

Through 16 national sites, DVBIC serves active military and veterans through state-of-the-art clinical care, research initiatives, and educational programs.

Anne's continuing interest in TBI is based on personal experience with its impact on individuals. Her dissertation focus is TBI as well.

She knew she wanted a practicum to serve as a launch point for a federal government career, and after reviewing numerous Web sites, networking with TBI experts, and identifying her goals, she made a cold call to the DCoE Deputy Director. She was delighted when the Director offered to tailor a practicum to her needs. Anne credits her DrPH training and its broad curricular requirements as foundations for her position offer.

"Everyone was extremely respectful, valued my opinions, and helped me network. I wrote a subsequently funded research proposal, developed a strategic plan proposal for the Education and Outreach Division, and analyzed Division of Clinical Affairs data. I was also given visibility on multiple ongoing projects. It was great to see the "big circle" of knowledge translation and application close."

An official Memorandum of Understanding between the DCoE and the University of Pittsburgh is a legacy of Anne's practicum, which will help pave the way to other student experiences.

The department hopes others will be inspired by Anne's example to reach high and take initiative when seeking learning opportunities. A door to something amazing may open!

CONGRATULATIONS //

HONORS :

JEAN NACHEGA

AIDS Journal most highly cited Clinical Science article in 2014: "Adherence to antiretroviral therapy during and after pregnancy in low-income, middle-income, and high-income countries: a systematic review and meta-analysis"

JANE CAULEY

Newly Elected President-Elect of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research

GRANTS AWARDED :

STEVE BELLE

Renewed NIH U01 – "Hepatitis B Research Network - Data Coordination Center"

JANE CAULEY

Renewed NIH R01 – "Bone Strength Through the Menopausal Transition: Trabecular Bone Score"

SAMAR EL KHOUDARY

New AHA – "High-Density Lipoprotein Particles in Women Transitioning Through Menopause: The HDL-Menopause Study"

ALLISON KUIPERS

New NIH K01 – "Molecular Epidemiology of the Wnt Pathway in Subclinical Cardiovascular Disease"

STEVE WISNIEWSKI

New NIH U01 – "Vitamin D to Prevent Severe Asthma Exacerbations in High-Risk Children: DCC"

New NIH U01 – "Network Management Core (NEMO) for the Pulmonary Trials Cooperative (PTC)"

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS :

CATERINA ROSANO

Professor

ANDREA ROSSO

Assistant Professor

DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY FALL 2015 SEMINAR //

NOVEL APPROACHES TO DATA ACQUISITION FOR SURVEILLANCE AND APPLICATION IN EPIDEMIOLOGIC RESEARCH

A115 Crabtree Auditorium 12:00 - 1:00 pm

The Fall 2015 Epidemiology Seminar Schedule is available on the [Pitt Public Health](#) website.

SPECIAL SEMINAR : PLEASE ATTEND //

CONTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE ERA OF PRECISION MEDICINE

Thursday, September 24, 2015, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.,
University Club Ballroom B

*A special epidemiology
symposium honoring
Professor Emeritus Lewis
H.Kuller, recipient of the
2015 John Snow
APHA Award.*

Speakers Include: Drs. Lewis H Kuller,
Dietrich Stephan, Russ Tracey and Roberta
Ness (former John Snow winner and former
faculty/interim dean of Pitt Public Health)

RSVP by Wednesday 9/16 at
publichealth.pitt.edu/kullersymposium



PITT
PUBLIC HEALTH

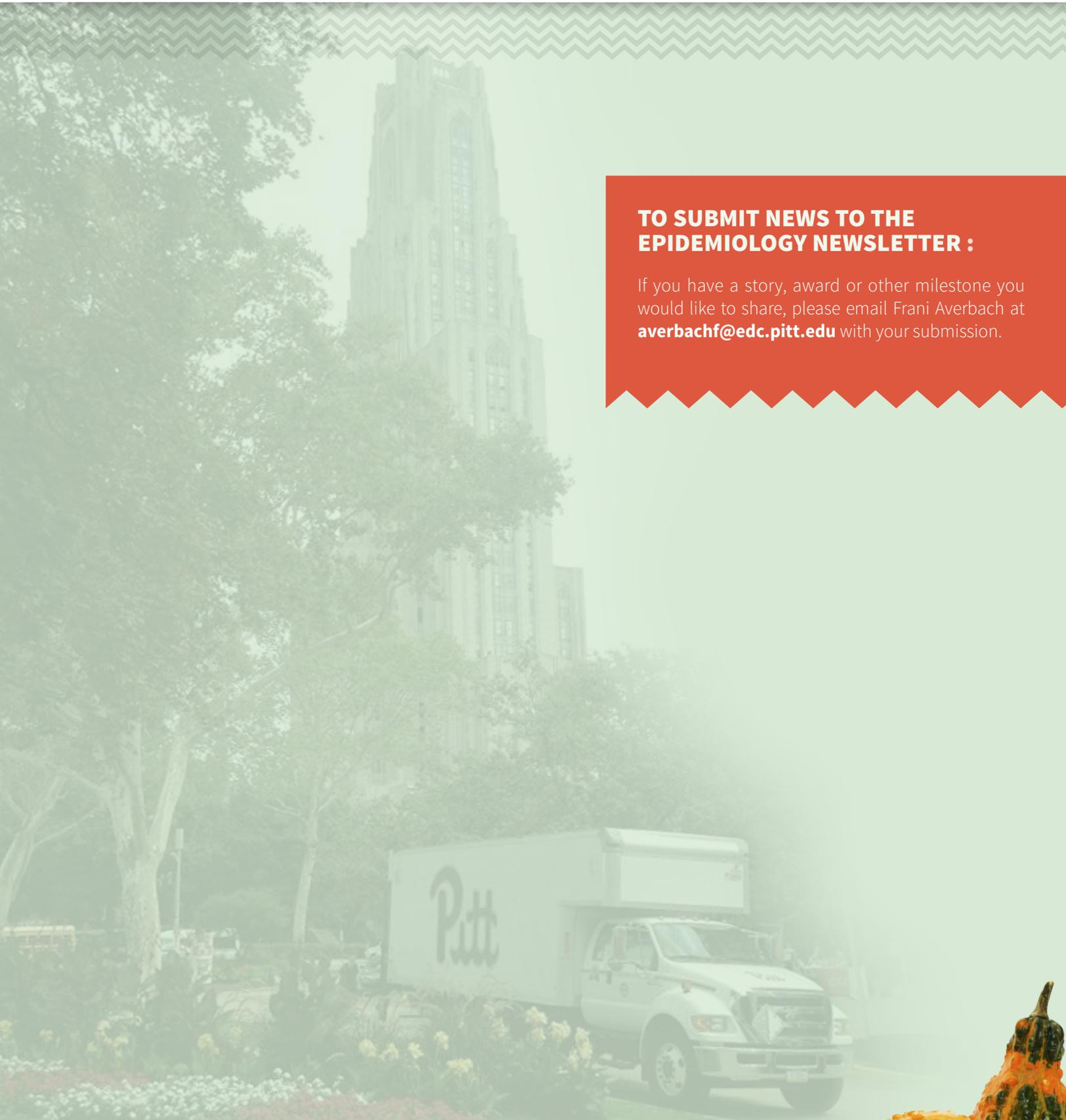
CONTRIBUTION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE ERA OF PRECISION MEDICINE

A special epidemiology symposium honoring Professor Emeritus Lewis H. Kuller,
recipient of the 2015 John Snow APHA Award.

THURSDAY, 9/24/2015; 1-4 P.M.
UNIVERSITY CLUB, BALLROOM A

Dietrich Stephan, Professor and Chair of Human Genetics,
University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health
Russell Tracy, Ph.D., ABCC, FAHA, Professor and Vice-Chair of Research, Pathology &
Laboratory Medicine and Professor of Biochemistry; Emeritus, Senior Associate Dean for
Research and Academic Affairs; University of Vermont College of Medicine
Roberta Ness, MD, MPH, James W. Rockwell Professor of Public Health, Vice-President
of Innovation, The University of Texas School of Public Health

RSVP BY WEDNESDAY 9/16 AT PUBLICHEALTH.PITT.EDU/KULLERSYMPIUM



**TO SUBMIT NEWS TO THE
EPIDEMIOLOGY NEWSLETTER :**

If you have a story, award or other milestone you would like to share, please email Frani Averbach at averbachf@edc.pitt.edu with your submission.