

NOTABLE NEWS //

DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS ASSOCIATED WITH PREMATURE MORTALITY IN TYPE 1 DIABETES

Schools of Health Sciences Media Relations
June 16, 2014

People with type 1 diabetes have a higher risk of premature death as their number of depressive symptoms increases, a University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health analysis reveals. The findings were presented in a press conference at the American Diabetes Association’s 74th Scientific Sessions in San Francisco and used data collected through the Pittsburgh Epidemiology of Diabetes Complications Study, a long-term study of health complications in people with type 1 diabetes. “Through the 25 years that we’ve been running this study, we’ve found that there’s a lot more to diabetes than high blood sugar,” said senior author Trevor Orchard, M.D., professor of epidemiology at Pitt Public Health. Lead author is Cassie Fickley, M.P.H., a doctoral student in Pitt Public Health’s department of epidemiology. Additional authors on this study are Tina Costacou, Ph.D., assistant professor of epidemiology at Pitt Public Health. »



Dr. Trevor Orchard and doctoral student Cassie Fickley discuss diabetes and depression

SEX HORMONES AT MIDLIFE LINKED TO BAD CHOLESTEROL CARRIERS THAT INCREASE HEART DISEASE IN WOMEN

Pittsburgh Post Gazette
July 14, 2014

As hormone levels change during the transition to menopause, the quality of a woman’s cholesterol carriers degrades, leaving her at greater risk for heart disease, researchers at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health discovered. The first-of-its-kind evaluation, supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), was done using an advanced method to characterize cholesterol carriers in the blood and is published in the July issue of the Journal of Lipid Research. “Higher levels of HDL, or what we know as ‘good cholesterol,’ may not always be as protective as we had thought before,” said lead investigator Samar R. El Khoudary, Ph.D., M.P.H., assistant professor in Pitt Public Health’s Department of Epidemiology. Additional authors on this study are Maria M. Brooks, Ph.D., associate professor of epidemiology, Rebecca C. Thurston, Ph.D., and Karen A. Matthews, Ph.D both of Pitt. »



Dr. Samar El Khoudary

NOTABLE NEWS : CONTINUED //**CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE
CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP**

Ron Voorhees, MD, MPH has been appointed by Dean Donald Burke as the new Center for Public Health Practice Director and Associate Dean for Practice. Currently, Dr. Voorhees is professor of Public Health Practice in the Department of Epidemiology, and he serves as a Senior Program Advisor to the Allegheny County Health Department where he served previously as Chief of the Office of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.



Dr. Ron Voorhees

From 2012 to 2013, he was the County's acting health department director. Prior to coming to Pittsburgh, Ron was Chief Medical Officer for the New Mexico Department of Health. He worked there for 15 years as a medical epidemiologist, including 12 years as Deputy State Epidemiologist. Academically, he has developed and taught courses in applied public health epidemiology, has been active in developing student opportunities in public health, and has published papers on a variety of public health topics. His experience as a senior public health practitioner and his commitment to teaching and applied research eminently qualify him to take on the leadership of practice scholarship at Pitt Public Health.

**EPIDEMIOLOGY FACULTY NAMED IN MOST
HIGHLY CITED RESEARCHERS LIST**

Four members of the Pitt Public Health epidemiology faculty have been included in the 2014 list of most highly cited researchers in the sciences and social sciences. The list, *The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds 2014*, recognized around 3,000 researchers worldwide and was compiled by Thomson Reuters.

Faculty members on the list included, Jane A. Cauley, professor and vice chair for research in the Department of Epidemiology; Lewis H. Kuller, emeritus professor of epidemiology; Anne B. Newman, chair of the Department of Epidemiology; and Stephen R. Wisniewski, professor of epidemiology.

The list was developed by surveying articles and reviews in both science and social science journals and identifying which were most frequently cited in papers by others from 2002 to 2012. Those that ranked in the top 1% for field and year are considered highly cited papers.

**THE GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
SELECTS 2014 FELLOWS**

The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) - the nation's largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to the field of aging - has named 61 exemplary professionals as its newest fellows. Dr. Elsa Strotmeyer, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at Pitt Public Health, has been named a fellow in the Health Sciences Section. »



Dr. Elsa Strotmeyer

CONGRATULATIONS //**FACULTY ACTIONS :****LUANN BRINK**

Appointment as Adjunct Assistant Professor

NANCY GLYNN

Appointment as Assistant Professor

MARGARET MCDONALD

Appointment as Associate Professor

GRANTS :**JENNIFER ADIBI**

Central Research Development Fund Small Grant Award

SAMAR EL KHOUDARY

Central Research Development Fund Small Grant Award

ANDREA KRISKA

New NIH R18- "Activity and Sedentary Behavior Change; Impact on Lifestyle Intervention Effects for Diabetes Translation"

CATERINA ROSANO

New NIH R01- "Ultra-high-field Neuroimaging in Elderly after a Two-Year Exercise Intervention"

MARIA BROOKS

Renewed NIH U01 - "Study of Women's Health Across the Nation (SWAN) V: Coordinating Center"

JIAN-MIN YUAN

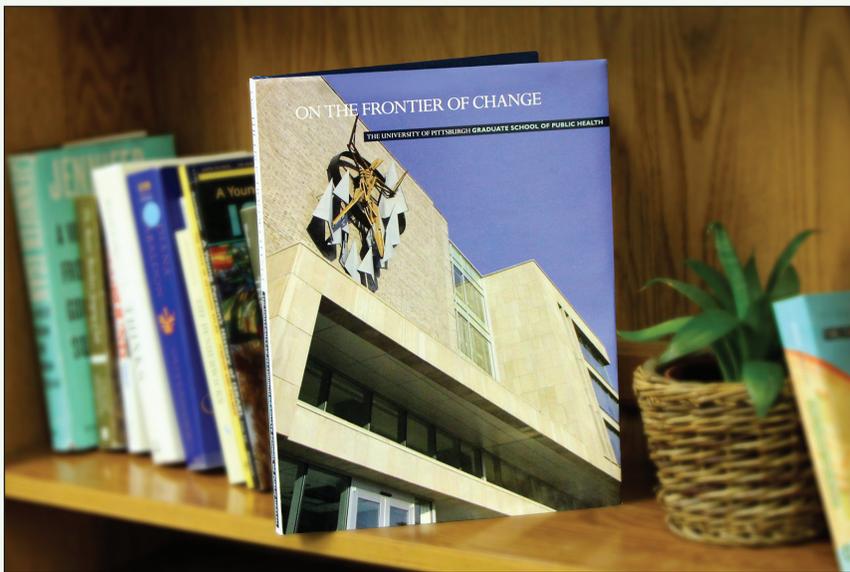
New NIH T32 - "Translational Research Training in Cancer Etiology and Prevention"

IN THE COMMUNITY : EPI GIVES BACK //

This spring, two master's students Ashley Parsons and Michael Balke along with Dr. Nancy Glynn, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, formed a new service group "Epi Gives Back". The goal of this group is to bring together students, faculty and staff in the department of epidemiology to volunteer and participate in meaningful projects that showcase our true commitment as public health professionals to bettering the health and welfare of our local community. The group kicked things off with a South Side river cleanup in July and then joined the Allegheny County Health Department in August to distribute oral rabies vaccines as part of its annual baiting program to prevent the spread of the disease. New MPH student Katie Krancevich, who is interested in zoonotic diseases, took part in the effort, along with several others.



On September 20th, the group will participate in the JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) Walk to Cure Diabetes by serving as research information volunteers and raising money for a cure via a walk team. Future activities include cooking/service meals at Family House and the East End Cooperative Ministry Community House homeless shelter. You can follow the group's activities on Facebook by searching Epi Gives Back. Also, please share any new service ideas with the group! »



FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF //

ON THE FRONTIER OF CHANGE : THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Did you know that in the 1940's, Pennsylvania ranked near the bottom nationally in public health with few qualified health department administrators and no graduate school of public health? *On the Frontier of Change* chronicles the positive impact that Pitt Public Health has had over the course of its 65 plus years. This would make a great addition to your bookshelf. You may order a copy from the Pitt Book Centre at pittuniversitystore.com. »

FOND FAREWELL : DR. FAITH SELZER //

We say a fond farewell to Research Assistant Professor Faith Selzer, PhD. Faith was a doctoral student in the Department of Epidemiology in the late 1990s and authored a seminal manuscript on vascular stiffness in women with lupus with her dissertation advisors Drs. Susan Manzi and Kim Sutton-Tyrrell. Upon graduation, she joined the Epidemiology Data Center at the University of Pittsburgh and contributed to a number of national multicenter projects. She was a key investigator of the NHLBI Dynamic Registry, a registry of patients undergoing percutaneous intervention from 5 cohort waves. Among her many contributions to the NHLBI Dynamic Registry, she co-authored a frontline paper comparing bare metal and drug eluting stents for off-label indications that was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Since 2009, she lent her superior organizational and leadership skills to the Study of Women's Health Across the Nation, a longitudinal cohort study of women transitioning through menopause, where she focused on bone and cardiovascular health. Over the years, she has collaborated closely with Dr. Katherine Detre, Sheryl Kelsey, Kevin Kip, Steven Belle, Kim Sutton-Tyrrell, Maria Mori Brooks and many others. Dr. Selzer has published more than 80 papers. Beyond publications, she was an exceptional colleague, manager and mentor. Dr. Selzer will continue her research career at the Orthopedic and Arthritis Center for Outcomes Research at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. Best of luck Faith – we will miss you!



Dr. Faith Selzer

TIPS FOR SUCCESS FROM A DOCTORAL STUDENT //

Stephen Smagula is a PhD student, soon to defend his dissertation. His academic advisor and mentor is Dr. Jane Cauley. Although he focuses on psychiatric epidemiology research, his interests have broadened since his arrival at Pitt Public Health, and now encompass aging studies related to depression and sleep issues often encountered by older adults. Stephen shares his “lessons learned” in his responses below.

What primary advice would you give to continuing students?

“Focus on fundamentals taught in methods classes. Follow your passion, and learn as much as possible about the areas of expertise that interest you most. Try to publish your work!”

What are your recommendations regarding networking at Pitt Public Health & elsewhere?

Identify the “all stars” in your areas of focus and introduce yourself. I met Dr. Newman at the first Annual Epidemiology Reception I attended, and we discussed sleep research. Join student organizations; it's a great way to meet like-minded people. Student Services staff members are key contacts as well. Also, try accessing **NIH RePORTER**. This is a searchable database of federally funding biomedical research projects conducted at universities, hospitals, and other research institutions, maintained by the National Institutes of Health.”

How important are relationships with faculty advisors?

“Relationships with advisors are critical in making a smooth transition to life in the department. Advisors want us to walk away with a product – published research. Dr. Cauley's mentorship style has worked perfectly for me; we are both very interested in being productive. It's important that expectations on both sides are clear and realistic from the beginning.”

We wish Stephen all the best as he prepares to assume a postdoc position in the Department of Psychiatry and focus on depression treatment responses among older adults.



Stephen Smagula, PhD Student