IDM welcomes our new, distinguished Visiting Professor, Dr. Peter Salk

We are honored that Dr. Peter Salk has joined our department as a Visiting Professor. Dr. Salk is president of the Jonas Salk Legacy Foundation, where he continues to preserve and extend his father Jonas’ scientific and philosophical vision towards solutions of ongoing problems confronting humanity. Peter has a long history and keen interest in prevention and control of infectious diseases. In the early days of HIV vaccine development, he together with his father developed a highly innovative strategy for an HIV envelope-based vaccine. Indeed, this approach was later incorporated in the first vaccine trial that demonstrated preventive efficacy in Thailand.

Dr. Salk will be a great ambassador for the department as well as the school in promoting public health at national and international levels. In addition, he will be invited to present guest lectures in our Global Infectious Disease course and discuss with our graduate students the legacy of his father in discovering the polio vaccine. We hope to open these special lectures to the broader school audience.
Greetings to alumni, friends and colleagues,

It is with a sense of joy and loss to announce that Todd Reinhart, ScD, left the University of Pittsburgh to take a position as Dean of Sciences and Health Professions at St. Mary’s University of Minnesota effective December 1, 2015. Dr. Reinhart was the first faculty member that I recruited to IDM nearly 20 years ago. Todd’s outstanding record of research, service and teaching stands as a testament to this being one of my best decisions. This certainly was a basis for St. Mary’s recruiting him as their first Dean of Sciences and Health Professions. Todd has been liked, respected and appreciated by all IDM. We wish the best for Todd and his family in their new and exciting journey.

I am pleased to announce that, as a coincidental outcome of Todd’s departure, Velpandi Ayyavoo, PhD, Professor of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, replaced Todd as the new Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, effective December 1, 2015. The associate dean for faculty affairs oversees all faculty activities including the appointments, promotions, and tenure process. Velpandi takes the reins from Todd while retaining her important roles in research, teaching and service in IDM. Our congratulations to Dr. Ayyavoo in this well-deserved, new professional distinction.

Our newsletter headline proclaims the new, exciting appointment of Dr. Peter Salk in our department and Pitt Public Health. Sixty years ago Peter’s father Jonas Salk held a secondary appointment in our precursor, the Department of Epidemiology. We welcome Dr. Salk to our faculty and look forward to working with him.

Finally, this issue of the IDM Newsletter was delayed in part due to my medical issues. I thank all of you who sent me get well wishes and cheerful encouragement. I am glad to say that I have regained my health and am at full strength.

With kind regards,

Charles R. Rinaldo
IDM Welcomes New Faculty Members

Joshua Mattila, PhD

Dr. Josh Mattila grew up in northern Minnesota and received a BS in biology from Bemidji State University with an emphasis on ecology and invertebrate biology. After working several years in the environmental science field and the biotech industry, he enrolled in the Entomology program at the University of Minnesota under the mentorship of Tim Kurtti, an expert in tick biology and arthropod microbiology. Josh’s Ph.D. work with Dr. Kurtti focused on understanding how non-pathogenic rickettsial organisms influence immune responses in ticks against non-commensal bacteria including Borrelia burgdorferi, the Lyme disease spirochete. After earning his Ph.D., he transitioned from entomology to primate immunology with postdoctoral training at the University of Pittsburgh under Dr. JoAnne Flynn. Dr. Flynn is a pioneer in using nonhuman primates to study tuberculosis, and Josh’s first project was to use cynomolgus macaques to model reactivation of latent tuberculosis after HIV infection. This work focused on two areas: identifying changes in bacterial pathogenesis after viral infection, and measuring changes in pathogen-specific T cell responses after coinfection. Since completing these studies, Josh has been a Research Instructor in the Flynn Lab and gone on to examine the contribution of macrophages and neutrophils to protection and pathogenesis in the tuberculous granuloma, and computational modeling projects investigating aspects of lymph node and macrophage biology.

The Mattila lab in the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology will focus on identifying aspects of macrophage, neutrophil, and T cell biology that mediate protective or pathologic responses in tuberculosis. Moreover, his lab will examine how HIV modifies protective responses against Mycobacterium tuberculosis, how it promotes bacterial dissemination, and why HIV infection increases morbidity and mortality in tuberculosis. The role of type I interferons, cytokines that influence both innate and adaptive immune responses and are modulated by HIV infection, are of particular interest. Other projects include the importance of the nitric oxide synthases and arginases in tuberculosis, and computational modeling of cell behavior and immunology at the granuloma level.

Beyond his scientific interests, Josh loves spending time with his wife Polly (an avid gardener) and two daughters, Hallie and Claire. He also enjoys photography, cooking, and spending time outdoors, especially if that includes canoeing, fishing, and hiking.
Elizabeth Wonderlich, PhD

Dr. Elizabeth Wonderlich grew up in a little town in north central Pennsylvania known for being the home of the Little League World Series. She played clarinet in marching band, enjoyed rock climbing and white water kayaking, and played varsity soccer throughout high school. Upon graduation, she attended Pennsylvania State University and received her bachelor degree in Biology, focusing in Genetics and Developmental Biology. During breaks from PSU, Elizabeth worked at a small company, Tetracore, Inc., where she helped optimize commercial assays for detecting possible biowarfare agents. For her PhD in Cellular and Molecular Biology, Elizabeth worked under Dr. Kathleen Collins at the University of Michigan to elucidate the mechanism by which the HIV-1 protein Nef aids viral immune evasion in infected CD4+ T lymphocytes. Elizabeth joined the Center for Vaccine Research in March of 2010 in the lab of Dr. Simon Barratt-Boyes. Her work has mainly focused on determining the effects that SIV infection has on the innate immune system of rhesus macaques, but has also branched out to look at immune responses to Rift Valley fever virus with Dr. Amy Hartman and highly pathogenic avian influenza virus with Dr. Kelly Cole. Outside work, Elizabeth’s family keeps her extremely busy. She likes going to the zoo, museums, and local parks with her husband and two young sons, Rudy (4 years) and Harvey (8 months). Elizabeth has recently succeeded in finding time for herself and revisited her love for indoor rock climbing.

Ghanaian scientist wins 2015 Royal Society Pfizer Early Career Award

Accra, Aug. 20, GNA – Dr. Gordon A. Awandare, Head of the Department of Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology, University of Ghana, has become the first Ghanaian to win the Royal Society Pfizer Early Career Award. The Early Career Award is presented to a research scientist showing exceptional promise, but at an earlier stage of his or her career, usually having received their PhD. The 2015 Award is in recognition of his achievements in Molecular and Cellular Studies of Malaria, including how Malaria parasites invade red blood cells and cause diseases.

Dr. Gordon A. Awandare, 2007 PhD Graduate of IDM
The prize for Early Career Award winner is £15,000, including personal prize money and funds for a small research project of their choice.

The Royal Society is a self-governing Fellowship of many of the world’s most distinguished scientists drawn from all areas of Science, Engineering, and Medicine.

The Society’s fundamental purpose, as it has been since its foundation in 1660, is to recognize, promote, and support excellence in Science and to encourage the development and use of Science for the benefit of humanity.

On winning the Pfizer Award, an elated Dr Awandare told the Ghana News Agency on Thursday in Accra that: “It is an enormous honour to me and my team, including students, faculty and collaborators.

“We are building capacity for high quality science right here in Africa, and this award indicates that we are on course.

“But we are only getting started therefore recognition from such an esteemed institution as the Royal Society will give momentum to our research and training efforts”.

Dr Awandare and other medalists were celebrated during the Royal Society's 10th Anniversary Day in November 2015.

Others are Professor Jean-Jacques Muyembe-Tamfum of the National Biomedical Research Institute, Democratic Republic of Congo, who was awarded the 2015 Royal Society Pfizer Advanced Award for his seminal work on viral haemorrhagic fevers, including Ebola, which generated the foundation of our understanding of the epidemiology, clinical manifestations and control of outbreaks of these viral infections.

Dr Awandare is also the Director of the West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP) at the College of Basic and Applied Sciences, which is a World Bank Africa Centre of Excellence for Higher Education, hosted jointly by the Department of Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology and the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, University of Ghana.

He obtained a BSc Biochemistry in 1998 and M Phil Biochemistry in 2002 from the University of Ghana. He enrolled for his PhD at the University Of Pittsburgh Graduate School Of Public Health in 2003 and was awarded PhD in Infectious Diseases and Microbiology in 2007, together with the Outstanding Student Award for the best dissertation in his graduating group.

He then took up a post-doctoral fellowship at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, MD, USA, where he worked for three years before establishing his research group at the University of Ghana in 2010.
Dr Awandare’s academic achievements include his role in the discovery of Complement Receptor 1 as a receptor for the malaria parasite Plasmodium falciparum.

In July 2014, the University of Ghana conferred on him the Distinguished Award for Meritorious Service, in recognition of his immense contribution to research and scholarship in the University and in acknowledgment of his potential in the years ahead.
Pitt Center Awarded $10.7 Million to Improve the Health of People Living with HIV/AIDS

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 14, 2015 – A center based at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health is being awarded a four-year, $10.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of HIV/AIDS to continue its award-winning work preventing the spread of HIV and improving care to people infected with the virus.

The MidAtlantic AIDS Education & Training Center (AETC) serves health professionals in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Washington, D.C., and has been headquartered at Pitt Public Health since 1988.

“We are pleased to continue our work improving access to quality HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care throughout our region,” said principal investigator Linda Frank, Ph.D., M.S.N., F.A.A.N., associate professor of infectious diseases and microbiology at Pitt Public Health. “Though great strides have been made in antiretroviral drug therapies that improve clinical outcomes, HIV/AIDS is still a significant public health issue. Health professionals must make HIV testing routine to reduce disparities in access to prevention and treatment and thus reduce stigma associated with the disease. The center educates and provides consultation and technical assistance to individual clinicians, agencies, clinics and programs to increase capacity within the region to provide prompt care to people who need it.”

The center provides on-site and distance-based interventions for health professionals and targets physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, dentists, pharmacists, social workers and other members of the intraprofessional treatment team.

“We give clinicians the knowledge and skills to offer and conduct HIV testing and provide proper treatment for not only the infection itself, but also for other co-occurring disorders and issues, such as hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections, substance use, psychological issues and homelessness,” said Dr. Frank. The training also helps clinicians and team members to develop skills to support people with HIV and those at risk for infection.

The Pitt center is one of eight AETC programs established around the country and is funded through HRSA grant number U1OHA29295.

About the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health
The University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, founded in 1948 and now one of the top-ranked schools of public health in the United States, conducts research on public health and medical care that improves the lives of millions of people around the world. Pitt Public Health is a leader in devising new methods to prevent and treat cardiovascular diseases, HIV/AIDS, cancer and other important public health problems. For more information about Pitt Public Health, visit the school’s Web site at www.publichealth.pitt.edu.
Acceptance Journeys: GSPH researcher works to counter stigma experienced by LGBT people

Pitt research specialist Sarah Krier, Ph.D., who is directing the Acceptance Journeys program, in front of part of the program’s exhibit at the Carnegie Library’s main branch. Featured in the photo are Faith, Michael and Michelle Massie.

Dr. Krier is aiming to counter the negative health effects of stigma against LGBT people by promoting their acceptance in the larger community.

As a research specialist with the HIV prevention and care project in the Graduate School of Public Health’s Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, Krier is directing the Acceptance Journeys program.

The Pitt program is the first duplication of an effort piloted in Milwaukee, and hopes to normalize LGBT people in the eyes of the public by highlighting stories from their parents, siblings, friends and teachers that illustrate the love of uniting them.

The campaign has been rolling out here since the end of 2014: surveying gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people and other community members and leaders about the state of prejudice in Pittsburgh; putting photographs of LGBT people and messages about their families’ love for them on billboards and bus shelters and in an exhibit at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh’s main Oakland branch; and bringing the program’s message of acceptance to community groups throughout the city.

“We really wanted to promote the positive in our message,” says Krier, “and encourage families to stand up for LGBT loved ones.

“We’re trying to inspire conversation,” she adds.

Michelle Massie, who is featured prominently in Acceptance Journeys photos with her brother Michael, who is gay, and their mother Faith, says people may voice their positive opinions about LGBT people among themselves or on social media, but “a lot of people are afraid to speak out on what they believe in. If you want to get a point across, you have to be visible, you have to put action behind your words. I think the most visible thing we could have done was put our pictures all over Pittsburgh.

“The other important thing is to support my brother,” she adds. “I can tell him all day that I love him,” but a larger, more public gesture has even more impact, she says. “By seeing a picture of a family that’s loving and just looks like everybody else, we are beginning to affect those perceptions. Not only does it have a large political and social impact but it has a personal, familial impact.”

Their family photo — in this case, taken on a lookout on Mt. Washington — looks like anyone else’s family photo, except they’re acknowledging that a family member is gay.

Michele Massie is particularly pleased about the billboards: “They’re seeing it in communities where it is often not talked about,” she says. “I had people who are contacting me, reaching out to my brother, seeing my mother at the bus stop.”

“They’ll tell them what it’s about,” says Faith Massie. Given such an opening for a more personal conversation about families accepting their LGBT members, she hopes “a lot more people will be more accepting of lesbians, gays, transgender people — just everyone, instead of looking at their sexual preference.”
Says Michael Massie: “The campaign has definitely gotten attention” — even from one member of his immediate family who had not previously been able to address his status. He noticed that this family member posted the Acceptance Journeys photo to Facebook.

“Having grown up in Pittsburgh, it was a very provincial city and wasn’t exactly gay friendly, or at least wasn’t seen that way,” he notes. Although he now lives and works in Philadelphia, he returns here often. “It’s still my hometown; I love it,” he says. And, he adds, “I thought it was important to show a person of color.”

Indeed, recent studies, along with the surveys done in preparation for Acceptance Journeys, show that prejudice or ignorance are highest, and most damaging, when it comes to young LGBT people, especially African Americans.

Acceptance Journeys was begun in Milwaukee due to a troubling increase in new HIV infections among young black LGBT people a decade ago. A study of this outbreak by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that several related social factors were at its root, including stigma and discrimination that led to black men becoming infected at younger ages and reduced the likelihood of them seeking testing and then medical care.

A 2014 study featured in LGBT Health, co-authored by Krier and lead author M. Reuel Friedman of public health, found that “stereotypes and stigma may lead to dramatic disparities in depression, anxiety, stress and other health outcomes among bisexual individuals in comparison to their heterosexual and homosexual counterparts.”

The Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (which includes the Pitt Men’s Study) has charted the same trend for all LGBT groups in Pittsburgh compared to heterosexuals. The study found that stigma increases the risk among young LGBT males, especially black males, for drug and alcohol use, victimization by violence, and the development of stress and other health conditions.

“Interventions focusing on health care settings that support the development of greater awareness of stigma and mistrust are urgently needed,” the study concluded.

“Failure to address psychosocial deterrents will stymie progress in biomedical prevention and cripple the ability to implement effective prevention and treatment strategies.”

That’s why Krier and colleagues first began looking to implement Acceptance Journeys by talking to LGBT youth at Project Silk, a recreational health space downtown. Silk participants reported that “Pittsburgh has a vague awareness that LGBT discrimination is a problem,” Krier says — only three out of 10 people in the general Pittsburgh population were aware of the issue, their survey found.

“That’s why Krier and colleagues first began looking to implement Acceptance Journeys by talking to LGBT youth at Project Silk, a recreational health space downtown. Silk participants reported that “Pittsburgh has a vague awareness that LGBT discrimination is a problem,” Krier says — only three out of 10 people in the general Pittsburgh population were aware of the issue, their survey found.

“It’s encouraging families to stand up for LGBT loved ones,” Krier says of Acceptance Journeys. “We continue to collect stories. It’s a big thing to stand up.”

The billboard messages have been duplicated on cards, along with lengthier stories from those pictured. Krier and other Pitt faculty and students involved with Acceptance Journeys will be distributing those cards at community centers.

Says Krier: “Our dream is to incorporate these photo cards in diversity training at various social service agencies that might be in contact with people [such as] a client who might be struggling with a child who is gay.”

The program also will resurvey those to whom they spoke originally, to assess the impact of the campaign, and will hold community group discussions through October.

“The photos I think make a difference,” she concludes. “We’re trying to create: ‘These are people you know. This is your community.’ Hopefully people can see themselves in these stories.”

- Marty Levine
  University Times
  September 2015
These honorees have been chosen on the scope and basis of professional and personal accomplishments as well as their commitment to and overall impact on the Pittsburgh region.

by Dennis Roddy
Pittsburgh Magazine

Brian Adams  [28]
Research Specialist, University of Pittsburgh

Brian Adams began on his path toward a career saving lives as a student at Duke University, where he earned his undergraduate degree in biology and public-policy studies, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he added a master’s degree in public health. All the while, he helped to co-chair the Health Sciences LGBTQ Alliance, advocating for health. He also served as a HIV test counselor, winning the first-ever Lansky Family Endowed Scholarship awarded to a Masters of Public Health student. Arriving at the University of Pittsburgh, he took a job working with the HIV Prevention and Care Project. Oh — and he started a kickball league. You got that right. One of the major shifts brought together the LGBTQ community and allies outside of the bar scene and on the playing field. Today the Stonewall Kickball — Pittsburgh league has two divisions, 16 teams, more than 330 players and support from a dozen businesses and organizations. And a leader determined to grow his community for the better. If I could get a second chance ... I have always gotten jokes about my name. I wish I had pushed my music career further; I already have a tagline. Brian Adams: An American Twist on a Canadian Classic.

Christina Ascension Farmartino  [28]
Executive Director, The Open Door, Inc.; Interim Executive Director, Prevention Point Pittsburgh

For nearly a decade, The Open Door, Inc. has provided housing to people living with HIV/AIDS. The program sprang from a discovery: Persons with HIV need to keep their medical appointments and follow medication regimens, and nothing interferes with both of those requirements like homelessness. Christina Farmartino became executive director of The Open Door at age 25; two years later, she has grown its budget almost tenfold and quadrupled the number of people it serves. She also has taken on the directorship of Prevention Point Pittsburgh, an innovative nonprofit organization that provides needle exchanges and health counseling to injection-drug users. The success of The Open Door now is being modeled by groups in Youngstown and Philadelphia, the sort of success that earned Farmartino a fellowship for Coro Pittsburgh’s Women in Leadership Program. Hardly anyone knows ... I fear escalators. Yes, moving stairs.
Anthony Silvestre, Ph.D., receives The Kerry Stoner Award

Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force is proud to present Pittsburgh resident Dr. Anthony Silvestre with the Kerry Stoner Award at its 30th Annual Benefit at WQED’s Studios on Fifth on Thursday, April 14, 2016.

The Kerry Stoner Award is presented annually to honor a person who has, through a longtime dedication to Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force's mission, shown commitment to Kerry Stoner's legacy and vision. Stoner, a tireless HIV/AIDS activist who died of complications from AIDS in 1993, was a founder and the first executive director of PATF.

Dr. Anthony Silvestre has been a staple in the HIV community, with involvement in LGBT health and HIV prevention service and research since 1984. He is currently a Professor in the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology at the University of Pittsburgh, and teaches courses in human diversity and public health. Silvestre has been an integral member of the Pitt Men's Study since the late 80's, and was involved in the creation of the study's first community advisory board that would then lead to the creation of Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force in 1985. To date, Silvestre has recruited an impressive 4,000 individuals from the gay and bisexual communities in Pittsburgh to engage in investigative research at the local Pitt Men's Study site. He is also actively engaged in the HIV Prevention and Care Project, along with the Center for LGBT Wellness. Through prevention planning and implementation, he has dedicated much of his professional career to being a facilitator of change within socially marginalized communities, particularly those of racial/ethnic and sexual minorities. His involvement in the LGBT community extends nationally, advocating for services devoted to HIV, mental health, and youth.

The Center for Mindfulness and Consciousness Studies (University Times 1/7/16)

After a year of planning, with funding from the Office of the Provost and broad-based university support, the Center for Mindfulness and Consciousness Studies (CMCS) has opened with a mission to “promote scholarship, creativity and well-being through mindfulness research, education, collective practice, and clinical and community service.”

Housed in the Graduate School of Public Health (in Infectious Diseases and Microbiology), where center director Anthony Silvestre is a faculty member, the University-wide center is funded by the Office of the Provost with additional support from the School of Medicine, the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, and several others. CMCS aims to foster research collaborations, support the use of mindfulness in educational curriculums, and promote mindfulness practice as a tool for wellness through “cores” in research, education and service.

Scientific literature on mindfulness is growing, said Silvestre. “People have done studies on using mindfulness in drug and alcohol recovery, in severe mental illness, mindfulness as a technique to reduce pain, and as a means of reducing stress and therefore increasing immune response,” he said.

Center events planned for the spring semester include a research lecture series and a Mindfulness Fair. The latter will showcase information on existing mindfulness projects at and near the University and offer participants the opportunity to learn about and try different mindfulness practices, said center associate director David Givens (IDM).

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The center is also partnering with student health and wellness initiatives to support mindfulness training at the Stress-Free Zone, Givens said.

“I think there are many, many ways as a technique it can be useful in public health,” Silvestre said, adding, “I think public health has a lot to say and learn about mindfulness and its impact on – for example – prevention programs, attention, and aging.”

Those looking for more information or to become involved can visit www.mindfulnesspitt.org, and can view the full University Times article here: http://www.utimes.pitt.edu/?p=37780.
IDM Announces 2015 Public Health Scholarship Recipients
Congratulations to Marissa Baron, Hong Liu and Joel Lowery

Instituted in 2004 to recognize academic excellence among incoming Master of Public Health and Master of Science students, the IDM Public Health Scholarship has again been awarded to three new master’s level students. The scholarship is based on academic merit which includes undergraduate grades and Graduate Record Examination scores. The student’s letters of recommendation are also reviewed during the selection process. This year’s recipients are:

**Marissa Baron (MPH-MIC)**
- **Undergrad**: University of Wisconsin, Madison
- **Degree**: BS in medical microbiology & immunology
- **Hometown**: Pittsburgh, PA
- **Interests**: running, biking, reading

**Hong Liu (MS)**
- **Undergrad**: Iowa State University
- **Degree**: BS in Biology
- **Hometown**: Shanghai, China
- **Interests**: table tennis

**Joel Lowery (MPH-PEL)**
- **Undergrad**: Western Carolina University
- **Degree**: BS in environmental health
- **Hometown**: Bostic, NC
- **Interests**: watching NFL, video games, exercising

Support for this scholarship is provided by the Bob Yee Fund in the department. Donations to this fund can be made by personal check to the University of Pittsburgh, subscript “The Bob Yee Fund”, and sent to: University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health, Attn: Ms. Robin Tierno, A419B Crabtree Hall, 130 DeSoto Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261. Contact Ms. Tierno with questions at: 412-624-3105 or email: rtierno@pitt.edu
And the Award Goes To ……

IDM Annual Research Day
September 10, 2015

Congratulations to this year’s Poster Winners!!

PhD Presentations

1st Place: Diana Campbell

“Cellular Cholesterol Regulation of Myeloid and Lymphoid Antigen Presenting Cell-Mediated HIV Trans Infection”
Advisor: Dr. Charles Rinaldo

2nd Place: Zach Swan

“Macrophage Accumulation in Gut Mucosa Correlates with Disease Progression in SIV-Infected Rhesus Macaques”
Advisor: Dr. Simon Barratt-Boyes

3rd Place: Jennifer Stock

“Factors Associated with the Control of SIVagm Infection in Baboons”
Advisor: Dr. Ivona Pandrea
And the Award Goes To ……

**MS Presentations**

1st Place: Mike Kujawa

“Encephalitic Disease Caused by Rift Valley Fever Virus Modeled in Lewis Rats and Human Neuronal Cells”
Advisor: Dr. Amy Hartman

**MPH-MIC Presentations**

1st Place: Danielle Farias

“Examining the Spatial Patterns of Influenza Hospitalizations by Census Tract in New Haven County”
Advisor: Dr. Tony Silvestre
And the Award Goes To ……

2nd Place (tie): Crystal Archibald

2nd Place (tie): Kathleen Long

“Comparison of Influenza Vaccine Regimens in Pediatric Patients: Immunity and Efficacy in 2014-15”
Advisor: Dr. Kelly Stefano Cole

“West Nile Virus in the Eastern Neighborhoods of Pittsburgh: A Comparison Using the Vector Index”
Advisor: Dr. Larry Kingsley

MPH-PEL Presentations

1st Place: Christian Suri

2nd Place: David Jung

“The Suggestive Role of Hand-Hygiene Procedures in Hospital-Acquired Clostridium Difficile Incidence”
Advisor: Dr. Jeremy Martinson

“Efficacy and Cytotoxicity of Novel Antiviral Compounds A3 and M4 on Rift Valley Fever Virus Infected Vero E6 Cells”
Advisor: Dr. Amy Hartman
Ms. Allison Brichacek, MS Program, has been selected to receive the William T. Green, Jr. Award. This award will provide Ms. Brichacek with $500 to support her project entitled, “Development of Periferal Assays to Detect Cytokines in Ferrets”. Advisor: Dr. Kelly Stefano Cole

As both a student and a teacher over his long career in health care, and in recognition of the need for students to enrich and broaden their academic experiences, Dr. Green established this award in 2006.
Brooke Bixler, Awarded MPH
November 4, 2015

Thesis Title: “Sequence-Based Typing to Identify Novel Polymorphisms Among Legionella pneumophila Isolates in Western Pennsylvania”  
Advisor: Dr. Jeremy Martinson

Elizabeth Stinson, Awarded MPH
November 6, 2015

Thesis Title: “Humoral Response to Type-A Derived Genetically Modified Live Attenuated Francisella tularensis in Rabbits”  
Advisor: Dr. Douglas Reed

Jonathan Berback, Awarded MPH
November 19, 2015

Thesis Title: “Antiviral Activity of Primary Human Trophoblast Conditioned Media Against Rift Valley Fever Virus”  
Advisor: Dr. Amy Hartman
David Jung, Awarded MPH
November 24, 2015

Thesis title: “Efficacy and Cytotoxicity of Novel Antiviral Compounds Against Rift Valley Fever Virus”
Advisor: Dr. Amy Hartman

Neeti Bhatte, Awarded MPH
December 2, 2015

Thesis title: “Water Sanitation for the Prevention of Legionellosis in a Large Academic Medical Center”
Advisor: Dr. Larry Kingsley

Anita Simonian, Awarded MPH
December 3, 2015

Advisor: Dr. Judy Martin

Kathleen Long, Awarded MPH
December 3, 2015

Thesis title: “West Nile Virus Control in Allegheny County: Difficulties in Utilization of the Vector Index for Prediction”
Advisor: Dr. Larry Kingsley
Yanille Scott, Awarded PhD  
December 18, 2015

Dissertation title:  “The Potential of Broadly Neutralizing Anti-HIV Antibodies to Function as HIV Microbicides”  
Advisor: Dr. Charlene Dezzutti

Fan Yang, Awarded MS  
April 1, 2016

Thesis title:  “In vitro Models of Lymphatic Endothelial Cells: Cytokine Receptor Expression Profiling and Incorporation into Organotypic Culture Models”  
Advisor: Dr. Todd Reinhart

Danielle Farias, Awarded MPH  
April 5, 2016

Thesis title:  “Empowering Women Against AIDS: An Analysis of HIV and IPV Among Young Women in South Africa and a Program Option”  
Advisor: Dr. Anthony Silvestre

Marilyn Blasingame, Awarded MPH  
April 5, 2016

Thesis title:  “Mongolia: Opportunities for Control of Sexually Transmitted Infections”  
Advisor: Dr. Linda Frank
Allison Brichacek, Awarded MS
April 7, 2016
Thesis title: “Evaluation of a Novel, Computationally-Designed Antiviral for Influenza in Ferrets”
Advisor: Dr. Kelly Stefano Cole

Crystal Archibald, Awarded MPH
April 8, 2016
Advisor: Dr. Kelly-Stefano-Cole

Taylor Ball, Awarded MPH
April 8, 2016
Thesis title: “Effect of Influenza Vaccination on Outcome of Hospitalized Adults: Case Control Study”
Advisor: Dr. Jeremy Martinson

Stephanie Pikula, Awarded MPH
April 11, 2016
Thesis title: “Observing the Effects of An Educational Intervention on MRSA Screening Compliance in an Acute Healthcare Facility”
Advisor: Dr. Phalguni Gupta
Janet Truebig, Awarded MPH
April 11, 2016

Thesis title: “Prevalence of Neurocognitive Disorders and Potential Correlates in the Pitt Men’s Study Cohort”
Advisor: Dr. Jeremy Martinson

Jennifer Bowling, Awarded MPH
April 13, 2016

Advisor: Dr. Doug Reed

Mike Kujawa, Awarded MS
April 12, 2016

Thesis title: “Understanding the Neuropathogenesis of Rift Valley Fever Using in vitro and in vivo Models”
Advisor: Dr. Amy Hartman

Ifeoma Okafor, Awarded MPH
April 15, 2016

Thesis title: “Perception of Patients and Health Care Workers (HCW) of Contact Precautions (CP) for Multidrug Resistant Organisms (MDRO)”
Advisor: Dr. Jeremy Martinson
Blandine Victor, Awarded MS  
April 25, 2016

Thesis title: “Human and Microbial Genetic Factors Contributions to the Development of HIV-Associated Neurocognitive Disorder”  
Advisor: Dr. Jeremy Martinson

Tianyuan Xu, Awarded MPH  
April 28, 2016

Thesis title: “Comparison of Utilization and Complications of Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters Versus Peripheral Midline Catheters in a Large Academic Medical Center”  
Advisor: Dr. Larry Kingsley

Ingrid Godfrey (pictured), IDM-MIC student, gave a presentation for her country report on April 13th, for the Peace Corps. Ingrid will be leaving on May 25th for Moldova.

Marilyn Blasingame (pictured), IDM-MIC student, who recently returned from Mongolia will be taking a staff position with Dr. Linda Frank and the MidAtlantic AETC beginning April 25th as an HIV educator.

*Congratulations to Ingrid and Marilyn on a superb academic year!!*
Award Categories and 2016 Winners

IDM Departmental Awards

MPH Category:
Nicholas Resciniti, “A Collaborative Approach to Promoting Smoke-Free Campus Policies in Allegheny County”
Advisor: Dr. Larry Kingsley

PhD Category:
Diana Campbell, “Macrophage-Mediated HIV-Trans Infection Association with HIV-1 Disease Progression”
Advisor: Dr. Charles Rinaldo

School-wide Awards

Delta Omega: Ashley Chung and Kalene Morozumi,
“Addressing Translation of Research into Community-Based Practice: A Review of HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Evidence and Uptake in the United States”
Advisor: Dr. Mackey Friedman Advisor: Dr. Derrick Matthews

The Center for Public Health Practice: Julia Draghiuci,
“Animal Bite and Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis Reporting in Central Zone, Alberta”
Advisor: Dr. Jeremy Martinson
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