GSPH celebrates the career of pioneering epidemiologist Dr. Lewis Kuller
The coming year promises to be just as eventful and dynamic for GSPH.
Estrogen and Progesterone Improve Lung Function and Asthma

Estrogen and progesterone play a role in lung function and asthma symptoms in women, according to a report published by GSPH researchers in the March 2003 issue of *Annals of Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology*, the scientific journal of the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology. Premenstrual declines in the hormone levels cause a worsening of asthmatic symptoms, the study found. Conversely, when estrogen and progesterone are raised—whether naturally during the menstrual cycle or through oral contraceptives or hormone replacement therapy—pulmonary function and asthma symptoms improved.

“These studies suggest that estrogen and progesterone may increase relaxation of bronchial smooth muscle, thereby reducing the contractile response. The two hormones have also been shown to exhibit anti-inflammatory properties,” said Catherine L. Haggerty, MD, assistant professor of epidemiology and assistant professor of neurological surgery, School of Medicine and Center for Injury Research and Control. Soner presented his findings at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) Safety in Numbers meeting for Disease Control and Prevention’s Epidemiology of Diabetes Complications Study.”

The report was based on an analysis of information from women 65 and older who joined the Study of Osteoporotic Fractures conducted in Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Md.; Minneapolis, Minn.; and Portland, Ore. Participants completed a survey assessing how active they were at the beginning of the study and again four years later. Women were considered sedentary if their activity level was equivalent to walking less than two miles a week. They were then placed into four categories: those who were sedentary at both times; those who were sedentary but became active; those who were active and became sedentary; and those who were active at both times. In a seven-year follow-up, after adjusting for factors such as age, smoking, and diseases including high blood pressure and coronary artery disease, researchers determined that women who increased their activity levels had about a 50 percent lower risk of dying than those who stayed sedentary.

“The data suggests that it’s never too late,” said investigator Jane A. Cauley, DrPH, associate professor of epidemiology. “Even when you’re 75 years old, if you try to increase your physical activity, there may be some health benefits associated with that activity.”

Ongoing research examines links between exercise and disease outcomes and whether exercise interventions could reduce disease risk. The findings of the study are discussed in the July 2003 issue of *Journal of the American Medical Association*.


double diabetes’ a cause of heart disease for type 1 diabetics

Calling it “double diabetes,” GSPH researchers have determined that insulin resistance, commonly associated with type 2 diabetes, may be a major cause of heart disease in people with type 1 diabetes as well, according to a study published in the May 2003 issue of *Diabetes Care*, a journal of the American Diabetes Association.

Type 1, or childhood-onset, diabetes results from the body’s failure to produce insulin. Type 2 diabetes, on the other hand, occurs when the body fails to use insulin properly to metabolize glucose. Insulin resistance is a known risk factor for heart disease.

“Many people have assumed that if you get type 1, and therefore already have diabetes, that you can’t get it again,” said Trevor Orchard, MD, principal investigator and professor of epidemiology.

“On the other hand, we have been told by patients and by physicians who have worked with type 1 diabetics for years that these patients have problems with its actions in the tissues.”

The study analyzed data from the Pittsburgh Epidemiology of Diabetes Complications Study, a 10-year prospective investigation based on a cohort of adults with type 1 diabetes.

“The good news is that not all people with type 1 diabetes are insulin resistant,” said Orchard. Orchard examined records on thunderstorm-related deaths in the United States from 1994 through 2000, analyzing variables including circumstances of death, age and gender of the victim, activity, location, work relatedness, date, time, and the involvement of a vehicle. Weather elements included thunderstorm winds, flash floods, tornadoes, and lightning.

Seventy percent of the 1,442 deaths identified were male. Two-thirds of the deaths occurred outside the home. The highest percentage of deaths from lightning involved sports and recreation (36 percent) and work (21.8 percent). The highest percentage of deaths from lightning involved outdoor activities (40 percent) and driving and transportation (21 percent). The highest percentage of deaths from high winds involved driving and transportation (31.5 percent) and boating and fishing (23 percent).

Handbook under preparation.

According to the authors, certain subgroups of women may be more susceptible to hormone cycles. Testosterone, estrogen, and progesterone may each independently affect pulmonary function to varying degrees.

“A further understanding of the role of hormones in asthma may better predict exacerbations and direct therapeutic strategies,” said Haggerty. “Such an understanding may help to improve the quality of life in women who suffer from this often debilitating disease.”


Seventy Percent of Thunderstorm-Related Deaths Occur in Men

An analysis of thunderstorm-related deaths in the United States revealed that men are more than twice as likely as women to die during a thunderstorm, according to Thomas J. Soner, PhD, assistant professor of epidemiology and assistant professor of neurological surgery, School of Medicine and Center for Injury Research and Control. Soner presented his findings at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) Safety in Numbers meeting for Disease Control and Prevention’s Epidemiology of Diabetes Complications Study.”


Seventy percent of the 1,442 deaths identified were male. Two-thirds of the deaths occurred outside the home. The highest percentage of deaths from flash floods (65 percent) involved driving or being in a car. The highest percentage of deaths from lightning involved sports and recreation (36 percent) and work (21.8 percent). The highest percentage of deaths from storms involved outdoor activities (40 percent) and driving and transportation (21 percent). The highest percentage of deaths from high winds involved driving and transportation (31.5 percent) and boating and fishing (23 percent).

Handbook under preparation.

Exercise Pays Off for Women Over the Age of 65

Women who become or stay physically active after age 65 are less likely than their sedentary counterparts to die from cardiovascular disease, cancer, and other causes, according to a new report. The study, one of the first to indicate that increasing fitness levels lengthens lifespan in older women, was published in the May 14, 2003, issue of *JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The study examined records on thunderstorm-related deaths in the United States from 1994 through 2000, analyzing variables including circumstances of death, age and gender of the victim, activity, location, work relatedness, date, time, and the involvement of a vehicle. Weather elements included thunderstorm winds, flash floods, tornadoes, and lightning.

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Handbook under preparation.

Study Finds No Relationship between Soot and Sulfur Dioxide Levels and Hospital Admissions in Allegheny County

There is no indication that increased levels of two common air pollutants—particulate matter (soot) and sulfur dioxide—cause increases in the number of people admitted to area hospitals as reported in a recent study done for the Allegheny County Health Department. This is in contrast to findings in an earlier study when pollution levels were much higher than today. One of the study’s
investigators, Vincent C. Arena, PhD, associate professor of biostatistics, summarized the results of an 18-month study that reviewed hospital admissions for cardiopulmonary diseases as well as air quality data from 1995 through 2000 in Allegheny County. Faculty and student researchers from three GSPH departments participated in the study, including Joseph Schwerha, MD, MPH, Jay Harper, MD, MPH, and Lawrence Keller from EOHI, Evelyn Talbott, DrPH, Jeanne Zborowski, PhD, Kathleen McCough-Pemu, Prisciah Mujuru, and Danielle Dell from epidemiology; and Satz Maazumdar, PhD, from biostatistics.

Arena reported the study was limited in scope, looking only at two pollutants and air quality data obtained from already existing county monitoring sites rather than sites chosen by the researchers for the particular purposes of this undertaking.

“We were not able to review hospital emergency room visit statistics where people having a reaction to the effects of air pollution might seek initial treatment,” he said. Arena cautioned that although the report does not indicate a relationship between hospital admissions and the current levels of air pollutants, it does not rule out all health effects. Additional, as well as more targeted, studies are warranted.

Rural Home Health Agencies Financially Vulnerable

The University of Pittsburgh Center for Rural Health Practice (CRHP), housed at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, released a report on the financial vulnerability of home health agencies. Michael Meit, MA, MPH, and director of CRHP, served as the coordinator of the project. Chyongchiou Jeng Lin, PhD, assistant professor of health policy and management, was the lead researcher for the project and the lead author of the report.

The report is based on two complementary studies. The first study, funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, examined fiscal and utilization data collected from a sample of 10 rural agencies in southwestern Pennsylvania. The second study, conducted by the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health through a grant from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, was based on a statewide survey of home health agencies.

Both studies complemented one another, with the results more compelling when analyzed together.

The report provides recommendations to improve the financial status of rural home health agencies in Pennsylvania, where 48 out of 67 counties are classified as rural, and across the nation. Although further research is needed, it is anticipated that results will also be able to be generalized to rural agencies across the nation.

taking Prempro, a combined estrogen plus progestin therapy, had twice the rate of dementia, including Alzheimer’s disease, compared to women who did not take the medication.

The study, published in JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association on May 28, 2003, also found that the combination therapy did not protect against the development of mild cognitive impairment, a form of cognitive decline less severe than dementia. More than 4,500 women 65 or older from 39 medical centers took part in the memory study, which started in 1995. Lewis Kuller, MD, DeP, University Professor of Public Health and professor of epidemiology, is a principal investigator on the local arm of this multicenter study.

WHIMS is a substudy of the Women's Health Initiative, a major 15-year research program to address cardiovascular disease, cancer, and osteoporosis — the most common causes of death, disability, and poor quality of life in postmenopausal women. Women in the estrogen-plus-progestin studies are no longer taking the combined therapy as part of the research trials. However, researchers stressed that while the increased risk of dementia is significant when calculated over a large population of women, the risk to any individual older woman is relatively small.

Combined Hormone Replacement Therapy Increases Risk of Dementia

New findings from the Women’s Health Initiative Memory Study (WHIMS) suggest that hormone replacement therapy does not ward off dementia in postmenopausal women. In fact, researchers found that older women taking Prempro, a combined estrogen plus progestin therapy, had twice the rate of dementia, including Alzheimer’s disease, compared to women who did not take the medication.

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Combining Hormone Replacement Therapy Does Not Appear to Elevate Total and LDL Cholesterol Levels in Men with HIV

A study by University of Pittsburgh researchers helps to clarify the relationship between a triple-drug therapy and cholesterol levels in HIV-positive men. Using data from the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS), the researchers determined that highly active anti-retroviral therapy (HAART) does not appear to raise total and LDL, or “bad” cholesterol, levels.

The MACS is an ongoing 19-year-old National Institutes of Health-funded study of homosexual and bisexual men, both HIV positive and HIV negative, in Pittsburgh at GSPH, and in Baltimore, Md; Chicago, Il.; and Los Angeles, Calif. The team of researchers included the study’s author Sharon A. Riddler, MD, assistant professor of medicine and infectious diseases and microbiology (IDM); Lawrence Kingsley, DrPH, associate professor of IDM and epidemiology; and Rhobert W. Evans, PhD, associate professor of epidemiology.

“Increases in blood lipid levels have been widely reported in HIV patients treated with HAART,” said Riddler. “But until now there were no studies that included patients’ lipid levels taken before they were infected with HIV.” The average total cholesterol value of the subjects before HIV infection was within the normal range and consistent with the general population of adult men. After HIV infection, but prior to administration of HAART, average cholesterol levels dropped. Once HAART was started, total and LDL cholesterol levels began to rise again.

“The results confirmed that, yes, total cholesterol does increase with HAART, but in most cases it increases back to or near the pre-infection level, and in that sense it represents a return to normal,” said Riddler. However, researchers observed that participants’ average triglyceride levels were higher, and HDL, or “good” cholesterol, levels were lower than those in similarly aged men in the general population, raising the concern of an increased risk of heart disease. In order to reduce the use of HIV drugs have been associated with changes in glucose metabolism and the development of insulin resistance, a condition that may also contribute to heart disease risk.

“With the ongoing collection of data through MACS,” said Riddler, “we will be able to look further into the effects of long-term triple-drug therapy and continue to refine recommendations for patients with HIV.” The study was published in the June 11, 2003, issue of JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association.

Without Peer
Lewis H. Kuller Steps Down after 30 Years at the Helm of the Department of Epidemiology

The explosion a few minutes into the 7 a.m. Albuquerque–Pittsburgh flight jolted everyone aboard out of early morning drowsiness. The passengers, many of them epidemiologists returning home from the annual meeting of the American Heart Association’s Council on Cardiovascular Epidemiology and Prevention, felt the plane drop out of the air, rocking back and forth before it leveled out. An engine, or what was left of it, fell apart after pieces fell off, was on fire. More than one person was belly-up and forlorn from airline counter to airline counter, demanding, beseeching, arguing for a ticket to be-didn’t-care-where. As long as it got him out of Albuquerque. He had to be in D.C. by morning.

Ives tells that story for the way it captures Kuller’s sense of purpose. While his fellow passengers were happy just to be breathing, Kuller had his eyes fixed firmly on where he had to go. He was—and is—a man on a mission, a man with work to do. Which is, incidentally, how he spent the two-day hiatus at the runway motel. One of his colleagues, seized by Kuller’s sense of purpose. While his classmates or peers.”

Feldman still remembers one stretch of days during which Kuller taught his class, then flew to Germany and back, returning just in time to fly off to Baltimore for another meeting over the weekend. “By the time he came back on Sunday, he must have logged 10,000 air miles. And Monday morning he was still ready to go. All to teach and do what he needs to do to push the envelope.”

Make that many envelopes. Kuller is internationally renowned for his contributions to the understanding of not only cardiovascular disease, but stroke, diabetes, women’s health, cancer, and aging and dementia. He’s pioneered landmark studies, including the Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial (MRFIT), the Cardiovascular Health Study, and the Women’s Health Initiative (WHI). One way to comprehend the phenomenal breadth of Kuller’s expertise is to note the journals which list him as associate editor—American Journal of Epidemiology, Preventive Medicine, and Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology—and as a member of the editorial board—Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, American Journal of Medicine; American Heart Association, Circulation; Stroke Journal; Journal of Chronic Diseases; Journal of Cardiac Rehabilitation; Hypertension, Preventive Cardiovascular Medicine; and the Clinical Journal of Women’s Health. Kuller, meanwhile, worked his way through the thick briefcase he carries with him on every trip.

“He works incredibly long hours,” says Ives. “He’s here; he works all the time. When he goes out of town, he takes a huge briefcase filled with enough work for two weeks. And he sits in his room and works. He’s always been a good example of how important it is to work really hard. It’s because he loves what he does that he’s able to do that—and motivate other people to do it, too.”

Cardiologist Adam Feldman, MD, MPH, a former epidemiology student, recalls meeting in Kuller’s office amid the cacophony of books, journals, and letters that were always threatening to burst out. “He can quote you just about any study,” says Feldman. “There are color marks on every article—he’s read everything that can be found in his office. It never ceases to fascinate any of his students or peers.”

One of the most poignant events at GSPH since my arrival two years ago was the two-day Festschrift celebration of Lew Kuller’s career. The attendance at the events, and the almost $100,000 in contributions received for the Lewis H. Kuller Scholarship Fund as a result, are truly a powerful testament to how many lives have been touched by Lew’s teaching and mentorship over the years. It’s a reminder to all of us why teaching is so important to our mission. We are indeed fortunate that Lew will be continuing his influential work here at GSPH as he heads up the Center for Healthy Aging.

—Dean Bernard D. Goldstein
Kuller poses with a group of his former students at the end of a day of scientific sessions as part of the Lewis Kuller Festschrift in March.

Kuller says, “It was obvious to me that had really terrible atherosclerotic disease even though they died very suddenly, had much known about it except that it was there. There wasn’t very much about how to study it further.”

“He lit up,” she recalls. “What followed was a stream of critical questions. What is the relative risk of heart attacks? How much greater is the risk compared to women without lupus? Is it related to an excess of traditional risk factors, premature menopause, medications used to treat lupus, or is it related to the underlying inflammatory process?” He takes observations and transforms them into successful grant applications. You throw an idea at him and what comes back are 15 other ideas along with 10 steps to successful publication of the observation or how to study it further.

(In Manzi’s case, that conversation with Kuller led to a seminal study showing a 50-fold increased risk of heart disease in women with lupus. As a result, the NIH has recognized heart disease in lupus as a critical problem with many more investigators studying the problem.)

“Another critical ingredient for a good mentor is directing you to the right people,” adds Manzi. “And Lew is incredibly good at that. As soon as you called someone and said, ‘Dr. Kuller suggested I contact you,’ you’d get a warm reception and whatever you needed. Having Lew’s name attached to anything was like having the red carpet laid out for you.”

“Well, I don’t think there’s anybody like him for that reason. That intensity—it’s so far beyond what you’ll see in anybody probably past the tenure level. He doesn’t quit.”

And, as in the Albuquerque airport, he never loses sight of his goal. After 30 years, he’s stepped down as chair of epidemiology to concentrate on his own research, including a 30-year follow-up of the MRFIT study, and to lead GSPH’s Center for Healthy Aging.

“I see the center as the translation of all of our research and application to the community,” says Kuller. “Most of our healthcare dollars in the elderly are focused on end-stage disease. In Allegheny County, with its growing elderly population—"Without Peer continued"
population, if we don’t develop a rational plan for prevention in the elderly, we’re going to bankrupt the whole community.

“We’ve done all this research to show we can control hypertension, we can control stroke, congestive heart failure, coronary heart disease, osteoporosis, depression, diabetes,” he continues.

“We spend a fortune taking care of people with congestive heart disease, coronary heart disease, stroke. We’re not going to prevent every stroke. We’re not going to make people live forever. But it’s ridiculous how much money we spend on preventable disease.”

In late March, nearly 240 colleagues, former students, family, and friends traveled from all over the country to celebrate Kuller’s remarkable career. The Festschrift began with a Friday evening dinner and “roast,” hosted by Thomas P. Detre, MD, University of Pittsburgh Distinguished Service Professor of Health Sciences. A full day of scientific sessions were offered on Saturday with prominent speakers presenting papers in the six areas—cardiovascular epidemiology, cancer, aging, cardiovascular disease prediction, women’s health, and inflammation—to which Kuller has made significant contributions. In addition, nine former students, representing the long reach of Kuller’s legacy, spoke on their current research efforts.

A black-tie party at The Andy Warhol Museum on Saturday evening raised $97,000 for the Lewis H. Kuller Scholarship Fund, established to attract and support GSPH epidemiology students. In addition to numerous donations from alumni and friends, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation made a generous $25,000 gift, and support was also received from the Merck Company Foundation. Sponsors for the Festschrift included the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, the faculty of the Department of Epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences, Eli Lilly and Co., Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC, and the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing.

Several participants reported that the Festschrift was one of the few occasions they’d ever seen Kuller speechless. He did recover in time for one of the most touching moments of the weekend—the presentation to Kuller of a University of Pittsburgh chair, occupied by a six-week old boxer puppy. Kuller promptly named the puppy Eppi.

Every year, Lew and Alice would open up their house for an evening dinner for all the graduate students, faculty, and staff in epidemiology at GSPH. One year there was a party in honor of Dr. Nemat Borhani. I found myself standing next to Lew and Nemat when Nemat challenged Lew: “Of all the things you do, what do you consider to be the most important?” Lew—taken by surprise by the question, I think—replied honestly: ‘Teach.’

—Gale Rutan, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Medicine
Staff Physician, Indiana University School of Medicine
Indianapolis VA Medical Center

A real legacy is his early involvement in pointing out the need to study things specifically in women. When he started in research, it was acceptable to say, ‘Men and women are different. Don’t study women; it will just be confusing.’ He’s also one of the first chairmen to promote the careers of women and be supportive of them if they’ve chosen to have families.

—Anne Newman, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology
University of Pittsburgh

He is a world-class epidemiologist and champion of women’s health issues. There is no topic too controversial for Dr. Kuller to address. He personifies the very best of what public health is all about.

—Evelyn Talbott, DrPH
Professor of Epidemiology
Professor of Communication Science and Disorders
Graduate School of Public Health
University of Pittsburgh

Without Peer continued
The culmination of the Festschrift celebration was a fundraiser cocktail party that raised $97,000 for the Lewis H. Kuller Scholarship Fund and drew colleagues, former students, family, and friends to The Andy Warhol Museum on Pittsburgh’s North Side.

We welcome your contributions to the Lewis H. Kuller Scholarship Fund, which provides financial support to qualifying first-year students accepted into either a master’s or doctoral program in the GSPH Department of Epidemiology.

To make a contribution, please contact:
University of Pittsburgh
Graduate School of Public Health
Karen Crenshaw
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412-624-5639
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I met Dr. Kuller when I interviewed for a faculty position. My interview was quite unique. It was an hour of ideas that he had on psychosocial factors and risk for cardiovascular disease (my area). He was creative, fun, energetic, and brilliant. I had to nap afterwards to recover from the intensity of the discussion. Dr. Kuller is a generous mentor and teacher, as well as a world-class scientist.

—Karen Matthews, PhD
Professor of Psychiatry,
Epidemiology/PSYCHology
Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic
UPMC

He was not only the principal investigator for the first large clinical trial I worked on; he also served as the physician for a research clinic in the Mon Valley. That was during the 1970s, when the road to the Mon Valley was not only twisting and full of potholes, but also went past the steel mills as they belched out horrible-smelling yellow smoke—not a trip many would make willingly. Over the six years of that study, Dr. Kuller made that trip weekly. I’m convinced that the high participation of the men in that study had a lot to do with their ‘doc’ being there for them.

—Elaine Meilahn, MPH, DrPH
Assistant Professor of Epidemiology
Graduate School of Public Health
University of Pittsburgh
Aging Gracefully

The Public Health and Aging Certificate Program is no new kid on the block. Housed in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences (BCHS), the program has, since the mid-1980s, quietly gone about the work of understanding and communicating the needs and issues of older adults from a public health perspective. It has few counterparts. While many schools offer classes in public health and aging, few have developed programs with such breadth. The program addresses the topic from multiple vantage points—culture, epidemiology, biology, finance, and administration.

BCHS Professor Myrna Silverman, PhD, is director of the Public Health and Aging Certificate Program. A cultural anthropologist by training, she is the longtime force behind the program.

It was serendipity, Silverman says, that brought her to GSPH in the early 1980s. Hired as a research associate to design and conduct qualitative research studies, she found that she enjoyed public health as a field. She began to see ways that her interest could dovetail with an already established interest in the older population.

(For her 1976 dissertation in anthropology, she had looked at family histories and interviewed older adults in Allegheny County, studying the dynamics of ethnicity, kinship, and family solidarity.)

As it turned out, Silverman was in the right place at the right time. There were already a few course offerings at GSPH in long-term care that trained professionals for licensure to work in nursing homes as well as research on the medical direction of nursing homes. But aging research was becoming a hot topic.

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) had been established as recently as 1974. The Pennsylvania Department of Aging was becoming extremely active, putting out many requests for applications (RFAs). Locally, the Heinz Endowments and the Pittsburgh Foundation were among those interested in aging initiatives.

“There was an environment encouraging people to be interested in doing research in aging,” says Silverman. “My research focus turned to issues in aging and health, long-term care, statewide aging services, and local community services that are offered to older adults.”

Silverman began to learn how little conversation there’d been historically between the practitioners of public health and the practitioners of aging services.

More and more, Silverman defined her work as a linking of the two areas—both in her own research as well as through the development of course offerings. With the support of Edmund M. Ricci, PhD, chair of BCHS (then health services administration) and professor of sociology in public health, Silverman developed a package of four courses.

“They were interviewing older adults in the medical school. Our counterparts at the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences were interested in long-term care. And I was training and information core director at the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, so I involved them.”

We are a multi-university and a multidiscipline program. Most other schools of public health have not been as progressive and as receptive as ours to the development of a program.

—Myrna Silverman

The 15-credit certificate program has been offered successfully for the past 13 years. Recently, representatives from different areas within the University, including the health sciences, social work, law, and public health, have been meeting to develop a University certificate in aging that would provide a broader, but complementary, opportunity for students interested in aging.

“Then we looked around our school to see what else there was,” she says. “Epidemiology had a course. There was a biology of aging course over in the medical school. Our counterparts at the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences were interested in long-term care. And I was training and information core director at the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, so I involved them.”

“The interplay between research and course work has given the program considerable power and depth. Silverman’s colleagues, each of whom directs research in the area of aging, include Judith R. Lave, PhD, chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management and professor of health economics; Jane A. Cauley, DrPH, professor of epidemiology; Marcie C. Nightingale, PhD, adjunct assistant professor of behavioral and community health sciences; and Valerie J. Watzlaf, PhD, associate professor of health information management at the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. In addition, Silverman’s research partner, Donald Musa, senior research associate at Pitt’s University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR), often teaches in the program as a guest lecturer.

“Course content is tied in with all of the research we’ve been doing,” says Silverman.

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GSPH a National Hub of Environmental Activity

As part of an open, participatory process by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to shape a national agenda on the environment and the aging, a public listening session was held in Pittsburgh on April 23, 2003. Cosponsored by the Graduate School of Public Health and the Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging, the meeting was the fourth of six held in cities around the country, including Tampa, Fla., San Antonio, Texas, Iowa City, Iowa; Los Angeles, Calif.; and Baltimore, Md. Comments from spirited participants ranged from concern about poor air quality and the effects of small-particle pollution and ground-level ozone to issues of mining subsidence, safe housing, and indoor air quality. Many of the speakers made heated comments about the weakening of clean air regulations and what one participant called “Senior death discount,” an age-adjusted formula proposed by the Office of Management and Budget that would value the life of each person older than 70 at 63 percent of a younger person’s life. Members of the listening panel at the Pittsburgh event included Graduate School of Public Health Dean Bernard D. Goldstein; Mildred E. Morrison, administrator, Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging; Donald Walsh, regional administrator, EPA Region III; James Roddey, Allegheny County chief executive; William Johnston-Walsh, deputy secretary of aging, Pennsyl-
vania Department of Aging; Bruce Dixon, administrator, Allegheny County Health Department.

The EPA listening session marked GSPH’s third national meeting with an environmental focus in less than a year, reflecting the school’s growing stature and influence in that arena. In September 2002, the school was host to the Association of Schools of Public Health’s third annual Environmental Health Conference. The two-day conference, Responding to a New Environment, looked at the public health role in disaster preparedness and emergency management and included many speakers from the GSPH faculty. In addition, a day of preconference workshops examined bioterrorism and the skills and training needed in the public health workforce to deal with an attack. Samuel J. Watson, AB, MA, GSPH associate professor of public health practice and senior biodefense advisor to the Center for Public Health Preparedness, planned the preconference sessions.

Ensuring Environmental Health in Post-Industrial Cities was the title of a March 19, 2003, workshop cosponsored by the Institute of Medicine Environmental Health Sciences, Research and Medicine Roundtable (EHRSRT), GSPH, and Carnegie Mellon University. GSPH’s Dean Goldstein is a roundtable member. The workshop brought together public health researchers, environmental scientists, healthcare providers, educators, business leaders, architects, urban planners, engineers, social scientists, and clergy to examine the health implications of the environment in postindustrial cities. Sessions addressed the challenges, such as the conversion of brownfields into usable spaces, aging infrastructure including sewers and storm water containments, the construction of green buildings, and the impact of the environment on physical activity levels.

“Pittsburgh has a great story to tell about cleaning up its environment—and many challenges that remain. We epitomize the problems faced now and in the future by postindustrial cities,” notes Goldstein. “The Graduate School of Public Health has been working with colleagues in the environmental academic, smart growth, and public health communities to bring national and international meetings to Pittsburgh of those experts who both can learn from our activities and can help us meet the challenges we face. A major goal of these efforts has been to bring together the broad range of organizations and citizen groups that must work together to achieve success.”

At a public listening session on April 23, 2003, members of the community, including some GSPH faculty members, aired concerns about the environment and the aging to a board of eight public officials, including representatives from the Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging, the EPA, and the Pennsylvania Department of Aging.

First-term U.S. Congressman Tim Murphy, PhD, spoke with a low but passionate voice when he talked about education and public health issues. A staunch Republican who represents Pennsylvania’s 18th district, he points out that he is the only child psychologist in Congress. In fact, the professional perspective he thought he could bring is one of the reasons why Murphy decided to get into politics. The fire to hold public office, he says, had been burning for years.

“I remember even as a little kid watching the national conventions on TV with my parents, listening to the comments, and being fascinated with the whole process. And then I’ve been very interested my entire life in history and civics,” he says. “I tied those interests together in my work as a psychologist by working as an advocate for families and for health care. I remem-
ber many times going to talk to elected officials and realizing that they were well informed, well meaning, but many times didn’t understand.”

When an opening came up for a seat in the Pennsylvania state senate, Murphy recalls thinking, “This is the time.” Elected in 1997, Murphy didn’t waste any time getting into the thick of things. A mere 16 months into his first term, he was able to build consensus among divergent interests to pass Pennsylvania’s Patient Bill of Rights, a groundbreaking piece of legislation that returned health-care decisions to providers and patients. It was one of Murphy’s proudest moments. As a state senator, he also chaired the Aging and Youth Committee and was vice chair of the Committee on Public Health and Welfare. But the opportunity to serve in the U.S. Congress was one he couldn’t pass up.

“I thought it would be nice to have a broader reach on some of the issues I wanted to continue to work on—health care and insurance, early childhood education, special education, and issues affecting families,” he says. Murphy is pleased with his initial congressional assignments. He is cochair of the Congressional Mental Health Caucus and serves on the government reform, financial services, and veterans’ affairs committees. He was also elected vice president of the 108th House Majority Freshman Class.

Murphy has put his expertise as a child psychologist to use both behind the scenes and on the floor of Congress in the passage of the recent Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Child Medication Safety Act, and as an original cosponsor of the Head Start reauthorization bill.

“Head Start is very much a public health concern,” says Murphy, who holds a PhD from Pitt in psychology and is an adjunct associate professor in GSPH’s behavioral and community health sciences department as well as the School of Medicine’s pediatrics department. “It is not just early childhood education. It’s child health. It’s child physical well-being. You’re establishing a number of things for these kids—such as seeing a doctor or screen-
ing them for developmental problems. This is a time that’s critical for brain development.

“The synapses, the neural development those first three years of life is critical. Those links don’t come back. What we find is that children who have good vocab-
ulay development early on in their lives continue much better. Those who do not continue to be behind their peers forever.”

Adjunct Professor Tim Murphy Off to a Quick Start in U.S. Congress

The excitement of being a member of the U.S. Congress has yet—if ever—to wear off. Murphy recalls his sense of awe sitting in the second row of the House chamber at President George W. Bush delivered this year’s “State of the Union” address.

“I turned toward the distinguished gentleman from eastern Pennsylvania and said, ‘I can’t believe I’m here.’ In response, Representative Todd Platts told him, ‘I say it every time.’

One late spring night, between votes on a bill that went well into wee hours, Murphy wandered into a deserted Capitol Rotunda.

“I just sat there awhile, looked around,” he says. “Think of the echoes that are in these halls. This is where Abraham Lincoln laid in state. This is where John Quincy Adams walked. That gives a real sense of humility. When you think of the men and women who have been in government and what they’ve done, it makes you humble real quick. But it also inspires you to get back up and go to work.”
MHA Students Plant Seeds for Careers in Public Health

The thank-you letters April Taylor received following her visit to a Pittsburgh middle school to talk about careers were confident, warm, and generous. “I hope your dreams come true,” wrote one student, referring to Taylor’s wish as a youngster to be a singer. Another boasted, “When I become all famous and everything playing football you can have line seats. Another thing that you can have is one of my new cars I invent. You can have the first one.” One note—short and sweet—was from a boy with a deep interest in sports who’d never heard the term sports medicine before: “Thanks for helping me choose my career. Sincerely, Jamar in Sports Medicine.”

Taylor, along with Department of Health Policy & Management Assistant Professor Wesley M. Rohrer III, PhD, and fellow master of health administration (MHA) students Michael Walsh, Sameer Kokan, and Audra Reeves, spent a morning last semester atSchiller Classical Academy, a Pittsburgh middle school. The opportunity came about through a program sponsored by UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh’s Partners in Education (PIEC), directed by GSPH alumnus Edgar Duncan (PhD, MSHyg ’56.)

When the thank-yous arrived, Taylor was surprised by the degree of interest the students showed. “A lot of them had never heard of public health before. They wanted to know how much math and science is required and how it’s different from being a doctor. We talked about how you plan for your future and who are the people you can talk to—friends and family and counselors.”

Taylor, who hopes to use her health administration degree to work on improving the healthcare system, was surprised by the degree of interest the students showed.

“Teresa Beigay brings professional experience to the research. Beginning her career with a 14-year stint as an occupational therapist in an acute-care hospital, she’s also developed fundraising and management skills as a field manager for the American Heart Association, policy experience with the federal Health Resources and Services Administration, and an understanding of the human side of the field as a transplant coordinator. In her work as an organ procurement coordinator, she says, she often drove up Oakland Avenue to bring organs for waiting recipients at UPMC. Many times, as the GSPH building came into sight with its distinctive Cantini sculpture, she would say to herself, “I’m going to go to school there some day.”

“The academic experience at GSPH has been great,” she says. “It’s given me a broad perspective. Then having the opportunity to work on a real-world project like I am really cements what you learn in the classroom. I can’t recommend GSPH highly enough.”

As a graduate student in public affairs in the mid-1980s, Teresa Beigay, now finishing up her GSPH doctorate in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, had the opportunity to spend a summer at Cambridge University studying how the English care for their elderly. It was an eye-opening experience—one that’s still good because you found out that it’s the worst experience you’ve ever had, and it’s the best experience you’ve ever had, it’s still good because you found out that it’s not a way that you wanted to go.”

Beigay’s dissertation, is a GSPH research project directed by Wesley M. Rohrer III, PhD, assistant professor of health policy and management and associate director of health administration programs. The project is evaluating an on-site health service program in subsidized housing for the elderly, taking place in conjunction with UPMC’s Department of Community Initiatives and UPMC Braddock.

“Teresa was pleased to see that the students had thought a little more about their futures—and that a personal connection had been made.”

When the thank-yous arrived, Taylor was pleased to see that the students had thought a little more about their futures—and that a personal connection had been made.

“Some of the kids said, ‘Hold onto your dreams,’ and, ‘You can still sing if you want to.’ I don’t know,” she laughs. “We’ll see how that career goes.”

“Teresa Beigay says her GSPH education has given her a “broad perspective.”
On April 26 and 27, 2003, GSPH celebrated both its alumni and its students at the annual Alumni Dinner and 53rd Convocation ceremonies. Graduates, families, and friends gathered at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association on Saturday the 26th for cocktails, dinner, and the presentation of student and alumni awards. The next afternoon, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Hall on Pittsburgh’s South Side played host to the graduates and their families for convocation. Speaker Mary E. Northridge, PhD, MPH, spoke on “Partnering to Advance Public Health: Making a Difference through Government, Community, Business, and Academic Vocations.” Northridge is associate professor of sociomedical sciences, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, and editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Public Health. She dedicated the August 2003 issue of the journal “to the 2003 graduating class of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, and by extension to all who devote themselves to improving the health and lives of people throughout the world.”

“In the graduating class of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health,” she writes, “I see the hope and the future of the public health profession. No matter where you serve, remember that you can be a public health advocate, and work toward realizing a collective future of freedom from suffering, pain, and oppression, with health and health care for all.” Northridge’s editorial can be viewed in its entirety at www.publichealth.pitt.edu/news/northridge.htm.

### Student Awards

#### Outstanding Student Awards
- Neyal J. Ansmar, MPH
- Michael N. Cantwell, MPH
- Anit Duggal, MPH
- Robin E. Groh, PhD
- Wei Li, PhD
- Raynah Marie Lobo, MS
- Tomoko Nukui, PhD
- Audra Angela Reeves, MHA
- Surojit Sarkar, PhD
- Rachel P. Wildman, PhD
- Catherine E. Wright, MPH
- Fan Zhou, MPH

#### Catherine Cartier-Ulrich Award
- Vanessa Papalazaros, MPH

#### Dean’s Service Award
- Melissa B. Halgaa, MHA
- Rosemarie G. Ramos, MPH, PhD

### Alumni Awards

#### Dean’s Distinguished Public Health Service Award
- Karen S. Peterson, MPH ’70

#### Distinguished Alumni Awards
- Galen E. Cole, MPH ’84
- James M. Klingensmith, MPH ’77, ScD ’87
- Patricia W. Potretzowski, PhD ’74

#### Margaret E. Gloninger Award
- Kimberly Evert, MPH ’88

#### Women’s Health Scholar Award
- Catherine Haggerty, PhD ’01

### Delta Omega

#### Master’s Thesis/Essay Awards
- Kathleen Hilton, MPH
- Mary Patricia McKay, MPH
- Audra Reeves, MHA
- Carena Winters-Hart, MPH
- Zhiying Xu, PhD

#### Doctoral Dissertation Awards
- Qi Chen, PhD
- Larry Harshyne, PhD
- Cristina Hofer, PhD
- Lucas Musewe, DrPH
- Zdenek Valenta, PhD

### 2003 Student Initiates
- Michael N. Cantwell, MPH
- Joanne E. Edwards, MPH
- Rana Ezzeddine, DrPH
- Laura N. Fisher, MPH
- Deborah Friedman, PhD
- Larry Harshyne, PhD
- Raynah Lobo, MS
- Tierlo Modie-Moroka, PhD
- Keith C. Palmer, MPH
- Audra A. Reeves, MHA
- Sharon Riddler, MPH

### 2003 Alumni Initiates
- Mary Louise Bost, DrPH ’94
- Barry L. Farkas, MPH ’00
- Craig S. Fryer, MPH ’97
- Rose Hammond, DrPH ’00
- Faina Linkov, MPH ’01
- Lucas Musewe, DrPH ’02
- Paul M. Winkler, MPH ’81

### 2003 Faculty Initiate
- Daniel Weeks, PhD

Top and bottom: Alumni, students, and friends had the opportunity to mingle and share memories of GSPH at the Alumni Dinner April 26.
William D. Novelli, Executive Director and CEO of AARP, Awarded 2003 Porter Prize

William D. Novelli, executive director and CEO of AARP, delivered the 2003 Porter Prize Lecture on April 7, 2003, at the Graduate School of Public Health. Novelli’s lecture was titled, “2011: A New Vision for a Healthy America.”

As cofounder and president of Porter Novelli, an international marketing communications corporation, Novelli pioneered the concept of social marketing —using marketing techniques to change behavior for the common good. In 1990 he retired from Porter Novelli to pursue a second career in public service. He served as president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and as executive vice president of CARE, the world’s largest private relief and development organization. In 2000, he joined AARP, the 35-million member group devoted to people age 50 and older, as associate executive director of public affairs. The following year, he was named executive director. He took over the helm at a critical moment in AARP’s history as the membership population changed—more and more baby boomers were reaching membership age, and half of the organization’s members were working rather than retired.

In his talk, Novelli addressed the opportunities and challenges brought about by the aging of our population. The year 2011 is when the first members of the baby-boomer generation will turn 65. He noted that America must change substantially from a healthcare delivery system with an acute-care focus to one of preventive care.

“There must be a national sense of urgency. We’re only eight years—or four U.S. Congressional election cycles—from 2011.”

Novelli also pointed out that 80 percent of Americans 65 or older have no limitations on their daily activities.

“In other words, we should strive for our aging society not only to be healthy, but to age with dignity and purpose.”

Novelli donated his $10,000 prize money to the Allegheny Trail Alliance, a coalition of regional rails-to-trails organizations. The Porter Prize was established in 1983 through a gift from the Adrienne & Milton Porter Charitable Foundation, which supports the annual award and lecture.

AARP Executive Director and CEO William D. Novelli (center) received the 2003 Porter Prize on April 7, 2003. Pictured with Novelli are GSPH Dean Bernard D. Goldstein (left) and Lee B. Foster, nephew of the late Milton Porter and trustee of the Adrienne & Milton Porter Charitable Foundation, which supports the annual award and lecture.

Forty-four students participated in Dean’s Day 2003 on March 17 at GSPH. This year’s celebration of student research included two poster sessions, oral presentations, and a reception, followed by an awards ceremony during which nine students were honored for their work.

Dean’s Day was instituted in 1999 by then-Interim Dean Herbert Rosenkranz to recognize the role of GSPH students in contributing to the school’s reputation for innovative research.

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Award winners Ami Patel (top left, center), Benjamin Nti (bottom left, right), Allison Robinson (top right, center), and Anna Noller (bottom right, left) discuss their presentations with Dean’s Day attendees.

A c h i e v e m e n t s

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Public Health
the Next 5,000?
Lois G. Michaels ('63) and other concerned alumni agree to chair this effort, in conjunction with Michael D. Shankle ('96), Alumni Society Immediate Past President. Together they envision an endowment that will ensure that GSPH can continue to meet the needs of future students and scholars.

The GSPH Scholarship Endowment: "The first priority was to establish an endowment," Crenshaw said. "To do this, we established a Campaign for the Next 5,000, and it was met in June to thank Eby for his company's contribution of 9,600 lycopene capsules to a study to detect lesions that may be in Tobago men with biopsy-detected lesions that may have a high risk of progressing to prostate cancer."

The prevalence and incidence of prostate cancer in Tobago are the highest reported in the world. Cancer in Tobago are the highest reported in the world.

Gift giving can be as simple as calling in a donation on a credit card, writing a check, or sending an e-mail. You can make a pledge over multiple years or consider a gift of stocks or other securities. Please take a moment and consider making one of the best investments possible—an investment in our students and in the future of GSPH.

Gift of Supplement Capsules Benefits Prostate Cancer Study
Barrett Eby, president of Pittsburgh-based Healthy Origins, has joined Clareann Bunker, PhD, associate professor of epidemiology, and her colleagues in the fight against prostate cancer through the donation of 9,600 lycopene supplement capsules needed for a prostate cancer study on the Caribbean island of Tobago.

The prevalence and incidence of prostate cancer in Tobago are the highest reported in the world.

Crenshaw added that gifts of stocks or other securities may incur less capital gains tax.
Mike Rick has joined GSPH’s staff as the director of external affairs. In this new position he will coordinate the school’s outreach efforts to prospective students, alumni, and the public. With previous experience in both college admissions and public relations, Rick will also focus a portion of his time on student recruitment issues. Rick most recently served as manager of media relations for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in Rockville, Md.

April 25, 2003, marked the 50th anniversary of the publication of Watson and Crick’s landmark paper on the structure of DNA. To celebrate, GSPH sponsored a DNA Day symposium and poster session titled “The Impact of DNA on Public Health.” The symposium was kicked off by Susanne Gollin’s reading of Watson and Crick’s paper, “Molecular Structure of Nucleic Acids: A Structure for Deoxyribonucleic Acid,” originally published in the April 25, 1953, edition of Nature. Gollin’s reading was followed by a series of talks presented by GSPH faculty members on the impact of the discovery of DNA on the various public health disciplines. The day ended with a reception and poster session featuring the research of GSPH students and post-doctoral fellows illustrating the impact of DNA on public health.

Department of Biostatistics
Pennsylvania Partners awarded Regina Logan the 2003 Governor's Achievement Award for outstanding performance in job training at its 19th annual conference in King of Prussia, Pa. Pennsylvania Partners is a statewide association that promotes, enhances, and serves the interests of local workforce development partnerships in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Logan holds an administrative support position in the Department of Biostatistics.

Department of Epidemiology
The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute awarded Michelle Danielson, PhD, Deborah Aaron, PhD, and Nina Markovic, PhD, from the School of Dental Medicine, a $2.5 million grant to study risk factors for coronary heart disease (CHD) in lesbians. The three researchers, all members of the Center for Research on Health and Sexual Orientation, will focus on the physiological, behavioral, and psychosocial factors related to the development of CHD. The project is the first of its kind and will be conducted over a four-year period.

Jan Dorman, PhD, has been named associate dean for research at GSPH. In this capacity she will nurture, build, and facilitate research at the school and work to increase multidisciplinary research and interactions among departments. In addition to her appointment as professor of epidemiology, Dorman has secondary appointments in the Department of the Women’s Health Program at GSPH and in the Department of Pediatrics in the School of Medicine.

Department of Environmental and Occupational Health
Jay Harper, MD, MPH, has been appointed to serve as a member of the Institute of Medicine’s Committee on Smallpox Vaccination Program Implementation. The committee was established to advise the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and vaccine program managers on selected aspects of pre-event smallpox vaccination program implementation.

Department of Health Policy & Management
Judith Lave, PhD, has been named chair of the Department of Health Policy & Management. Lave has been professor of health economics at GSPH since 1982 and served as vice chair of the Department of Health Services Administration until the department split in July 2002. She then served as interim chair of the new health policy and management department until being named chair in May 2003. Lave has secondary appointments as professor of economics, professor of business administration, and professor of psychiatry.

University Senate President James Cassing and Provost James Mahler presented Nathan Hershey, LL.B., an award “for outstanding contributions to the University of Pittsburgh through service in the University Senate” at the April 7, 2003, Senate Council meeting. Over the years, Hershey has served as both president and vice president of the University Senate, in addition to serving on various senate committees.

Faculty, staff, and students gathered on May 22, 2003, to celebrate the career of one of GSPH’s most accomplished faculty at a retirement party for Professor Emeritus Gordon MacLeod, MD. MacLeod has been a Pitt faculty member since 1974. He is currently professor of health services administration at GSPH and clinical professor of medicine at the School of Medicine, and he is a former department chair of health services administration at GSPH. In 1979, MacLeod was appointed Secretary of Health for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, where he organized a massive immunization campaign to put an end to the polio outbreak among the Amish. He also managed the health aspects of the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident.

M. Ilyas Kamboh, PhD, is principal investigator on a genetic study of heart disease in women with lupus. This five-year study, funded by a $1.8 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant, will examine how genetic variations modify the risk of coronary heart disease among women with lupus. The study will be conducted in collaboration with Susan Manzi, codirector of Pitt’s Lupus Diagnostic and Treatment Center.

The grant is part of an award split between six Pennsylvania scientists for research centered on breast and cervical cancers. The awards were funded through donations to the state income tax’s Breast and Cervical Cancer Research Fund and through personal donations to the fund through the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Gordon MacLeod (right) celebrates his retirement with Dean Goldstein and Judith Lave at a retirement party held at GSPH on May 22.
The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has awarded Douglas Perkins, PhD, a $1,962,237 grant for his study "Genetic Basis of Severe Malnutrition." This award is affiliated with Perkins’ Fogarty Training Grant award for $199,480 titled "Training and Research on Severe Malnutrition" for research being conducted in conjunction with Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya.

Phalguni Gupta, PhD, will conduct preclinical studies to determine the toxicity and efficacy of UC781 on HIV transmission rates. This project is part of a National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases award of nearly $8 million to Pitt and Magee-Womens Research Institute (MWRI) to fund research aimed at developing a microbicide barrier to HIV. As part of the grant, several simultaneous projects will be conducted that involve UC781, a tight-binding molecule discovered by coprincipal investigator Michael Parnik of Pitt’s Division of Infectious Diseases. Other investigators on the grant include principal investigator Sharon Hallier, School of Medicine; Lisa Rohan, School of Pharmacy; Harold Wiesenfeld, School of Medicine; Marjane Krohn, School of Medicine and assistant investigator at MWRI; Bernard Moncla, School of Dental Medicine; Charles Isaacs, New York Institute for Basic Research on Staten Island; and Dorothy Patton of the University of Washington in Seattle.

Gupta, along with Yue Chen, MD, PhD, received another grant from the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) to develop a novel Clostridium perfringens-based vaccine against Simian Immuno-deficiency Virus (SIV), which causes a disease similar to HIV in monkeys. The long-term goal is to extend this strategy to HIV for use in humans. The proposed vaccine strategy holds great promise for a practical vaccine against HIV/SIV due to its safety, affordability, and ease of administration.

Linda Frank, PhD, MSN, ACRN, was invited to a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on May 27, 2003, during which President Bush signed into law a $15 billion plan to fight AIDS. The law will make AIDS treatment available to HIV-infected individuals in Africa and the Caribbean. Frank is principal investigator and project director of the Pennsylvania/MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center.

The Center of Public Health Practice, along with GSPH faculty, staff, and students, joined with the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) in planning the most well-attended and publicized Public Health Week yet to promote awareness of a healthy lifestyle and to celebrate the GSPH/ACHD community’s contributions to public health. Project Coordinator Molly Eggleston, MPH, CHES, spearheaded the planning of this year’s events.

The week kicked off with a lecture on HIV/AIDS by William D. Novelli, director of the Pennsylvania/MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center, and an event to highlight the planning of this year’s events.

Martial arts instructors demonstrate simple tactics for self-defense during Public Health Week.
Judith M. Davenport

“Never say you’re retiring,” Judith M. Davenport, MPH, DMD, warns with a laugh when asked about her many civic commitments. Davenport, who retired from her private downtown Pittsburgh dental practice in 2000, had just been named to the prestigious board of the Howard Heinz Endowment. She modestly adds that she serves on a few boards.

But, indeed, the list is quite long—The Carnegie Museums, Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh Public Theater, the Birming-

ham Foundation in Pittsburgh, and the Alvin Alley Dance Theater Foundation in New York. Davenport is a member of the GSPH Board of Visitors. And last, but not least, she is chair of the board at Pittsburgh’s Carlow College. “That keeps me very, very busy,” she says. “It’s a great experience.”

Being busy is nothing new for Davenport. In 1972, with three children under the age of 9 and her husband, Ronald R. Davenport, serving as dean of Duquesne University’s law school, she enrolled at GSPH in the maternal and child health program. For her thesis, she studied an innovative dental clinic for children from low-income families.

“I was always interested in dentistry,” she says. “My master’s degree was my entrée into my chosen career eventually.”

Her career as a dentist led to one other claim to fame: Countless children would recognize her as the female dentist in Fred Rogers’ G昊ng to the Dentist book from his award-winning First in Fred Rogers’

Recognize Her as the Female Dentist in Countless Children Would Claim to Fame: Countless Children Would Recognize Her as the Female Dentist in Fred Rogers’ G昊ng to the Dentist Book from His Award-Winning First in Fred Rogers’

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Her career as a dentist led to one other claim to fame: Countless children would recognize her as the female dentist in Fred Rogers’ G昊ng to the Dentist book from his award-winning First in Fred Rogers’

New graduate Nayal Ammary (MPH ’03) has received a one-year Technology Transfer Fellowship in the Office of Education and Special Initiatives, Patient and Family Education Branch of the National Cancer Institute. She will be working on publications related to children and cancer.

Edgar Duncan (PhD, MSHyg ’56) delivered the commencement address “Keeping Your Wheel of Life in Balance” to the Duquesne University Mylan School of Pharmacy class of 2003 at the A.J. Pohlschro Center in Pittsburgh on May 17. Duncan is director of the Partners in Education Consortium at the GSPH Center for Minority Health.

Margaret C. McDonald (PhD ’91) has accepted a position as director of research and development with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation in Pittsburgh. In this capacity she will raise funds from foundations and government groups and seek partnerships with other foundations, as well as conceptualize new programs at the foundation. McDonald formerly served as assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs for the health sciences at Pitt. She will continue to maintain her faculty position as an assistant professor of epidemiology at GSPH.

Marcia Persin (Needleman) (MPH ’74) was recently named director of product development and implementation at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

Shavonne Ramsey (MD, MPH ’03) was the top award recipient at the 20th Annual Dr. Chester E. Harris Fund Medical Student Awards, presented at Scalf Hall in May. Ramsey, who received her MMPh this spring, will go on to a medical residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the Ohio State University Medical Center. The Dr. Chester E. Harris Award recognizes African American medical students at Pitt who exemplify academic excellence, community leadership, and service to humanity.

Megan H. Sandhu (Harris) (MHA ’94), of the El Paso VA Health Care System in El Paso, Texas, recently earned board certification in healthcare management and has been named a diplomat of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).

Shirley Yoder (MPH ’77) is vice president for enrollment and marketing for Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va.

Keep In Touch!

Have you changed jobs? Earned another degree or special award? Did you get married or have a baby? Did you relocate? Keep your alma mater and fellow graduates informed of the changes in your life. Simply return the enclosed reply card; visit the alumni information section of the Web site, www.publichealth.pitt.edu; or send us an e-mail at contact@gsphs.pitt.edu. We’ll publish your updates in the next issue of PublicHealth.
In Memoriam

Jan L. Sykora, ScD

Jan L. Sykora, ScD, professor emeritus in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, died on June 25, 2003, following a series of strokes. He was 71.

Dr. Sykora was born in 1932 in what was then Czechoslovakia. After earning a doctorate at Prague’s Charles University, he and his wife immigrated to the United States in 1967. Shortly thereafter, through mutual acquaintances, he met Maurice Shapiro, now an emeritus professor in GSPH, who recruited Dr. Sykora to the school. Dr. Sykora began his career at GSPH later that year and headed the Aquatic Biology Program in the Department of Industrial Environmental Health Sciences that subsequently became the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health (EOH).

Throughout his career, Dr. Sykora made a significant impact on a number of areas of environmental health, studying iron toxicity in brook trout, researching Legionella bacteria and the giardia lamblia parasite, and studying the effects of acid drainage from mines on species diversity in Western Pennsylvania. Following a giardiasis outbreak in McKeesport during the 1980s, he helped that city monitor its water treatment plant, and as a consultant with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, he studied diversity of organisms in the Ohio River. But Dr. Sykora’s true research passion was studying caddisflies, four-winged insects found near lakes and streams. After 31 years as a professor at GSPH, Dr. Sykora retired from the University in 1999.

A memorial service and reception was held for Dr. Sykora on July 13 at the Carnegie Museum and Café. A Jan Sykora Memorial Fund has been established through The Carnegie’s Department of Invertebrate Zoology. Memorial contributions in his name may be made to Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, Development Office, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

Robert E. Bolles, MPH ’72
John W. Clem, MS/Hyg ’69
Norris L. Davis, DrPH ’02
Jan L. Sykora, ScD, faculty

Norris L. Davis, DrPH ’02

Norris L. Davis, DrPH, died suddenly of a heart attack on April 22, 2003, at age 41, leaving a wife and two children. At the time of his death, Dr. Davis was employed at Pittsburgh’s Institute for Research, Education, and Training in Addictions (IRETA), where he was working on a faith-based initiative program to address drug abuse in minority communities.

Thomson Songer of the Department of Epidemiology, who hooded Dr. Davis at the 2002 graduation ceremony, said, “Norris believed passionately in public health and what it could do to reduce the problem of drug abuse, especially in the minority community. He spoke often about family and the value of family structure in preventing kids from getting into drugs.” Dr. Davis’ doctoral thesis at GSPH examined drug overdose deaths in Allegheny County, particularly among African Americans males.

Dean Bernard D. Goldstein noted that Dr. Davis was one of the first students he met after arriving at GSPH in 2001. “I asked him why he wanted to bother doing all of the work to get a doctoral degree,” Goldstein remembers. “He already had an MPH, was employed in what seemed to be a fascinating job with the National Center for Juvenile Justice, had an active family life, and was involved in the community. I wish I had written down his answer. It was a fervent statement of the value of what he was learning from his degree work and from his mentors to the accomplishment of his goals to make a difference in the community. His death is a tremendous loss to all of us in public health and to all who knew him at the GSPH.”

40 Years Ago ... A Look Back


NIH Funding to GSPH Increases by $5.6 Million

For the second straight year, GSPH is ranked third among the nation’s 45 schools of public health in total National Institutes of Health (NIH) competitive research grant funding, making it the leading state-related public health school on the list once again.

“We are very proud of this ranking,” says Dean Bernard D. Goldstein. “It is a testament to the world-class researchers at the Graduate School of Public Health and to the importance of the work they do in bettering the health of people all over the globe.”

For fiscal year 2002, GSPH received 62 NIH research grants totaling $45,959,563, which represents a $5.6 million increase over NIH research funds received in fiscal year 2001.

“During the past two years, the Graduate School of Public Health has had an impressive 41 percent increase in NIH research funding. None of the other top six schools have had more than a 12 percent increase during this period,” says Goldstein.

However, NIH funding is only part of the story, according to Goldstein. “It is crucial to understand that our NIH funding level only reflects one part of the overall mission and activities of the GSPH.”

Goldstein notes that considerable awards from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) during the past couple years have helped establish the Center for Healthy Aging and Center for Public Health Preparedness and that many GSPH researchers are making great strides in their fields independent of NIH funding.
Mark Your Calendar!

October 7–9, 2003
Dean on the Road, Chicago, Il.
Location and time TBD
Invitations to be sent to Chicago-area alumni in September with details.

October 13, 2003
Open House for Prospective Students
Graduate School of Public Health
Contact: Diane Kline, 412-624-5200 or dkline@gsphdean.gsph.pitt.edu

October 23–25, 2003
Pitt Homecoming Weekend
Student/Alumni Career Networking reception, Thursday, October 23, 6–8 p.m., Alumni Hall Ballroom
Fireworks/Laser Show, Friday, October 24, 9 p.m., Bigelow Boulevard
Pitt Alumni Association Pre-Game Tent/Monte Carlo Party, Saturday, October 25, time TBD, Heinz Field

October 28, 2003
A Celebration for Edgar Duncan
For more information, contact Lauren Wally at 412-624-3001 or lwally@gsphdean.gsph.pitt.edu

October 31, 2003
Parran Lecture—Bernard Fisher
Parran Hall Auditorium, G23, 3 p.m.
Reception to follow in first floor lounge
Contact: Elizabeth Kim, 412-624-3001 or ekim@gsphdean.gsph.pitt.edu

November 13, 2003
Jay L. Foster Memorial Lecture Series in Alzheimer’s Disease
Mary Sano, director of the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center and professor of psychiatry, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, N.Y.

November 15–19, 2003
American Public Health Association (APHA) 131st Annual Meeting and Exposition
San Francisco, Calif.

November 17, 2003
Reception for Alumni and Friends at APHA
6:30–8 p.m., Franciscan III room, Argent Hotel San Francisco
50 Third Street, San Francisco, CA
Contact: Sue Carr, 412-648-1294 or scarr@gsphdean.gsph.pitt.edu

Community Lecture, 1 p.m.
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Hall
5 Hot Metal Street, Pittsburgh (South Side)

Scientific Lecture, 4:30 p.m.
Graduate School of Public Health
Contact: Sue Carr, 412-648-1294 or scarr@gsphdean.gsph.pitt.edu

Parr vs. Syracuse, Saturday, October 25, time TBD, Heinz Field

Contact: Elizabeth Kim, 412-624-3001 or ekim@gsphdean.gsph.pitt.edu