

NOTABLE NEWS //

PHTHALATES LINKED TO DISRUPTION OF PREGNANCY HORMONE

Trib Total Media
March 5, 2015

Widely-used chemicals, phthalates, appear to be associated with the disruption of a key pregnancy hormone, according to a study based at Pitt Public Health. Lead researcher, Jennifer Adibi, assistant professor of epidemiology said in a statement, "Reducing exposure to phthalates and other hormone-disrupting chemicals is something that needs to be addressed at a societal level through consumer advocacy and regulation, and education of health care providers." »



Dr. Jennifer Adibi

PITT PUBLIC HEALTH'S VACCINE RESEARCH

National Institute of General Medical Sciences
March 4, 2015

Two tools created by the Graduate School of Public Health have been in the news (and in many tweets) following multi-state measles outbreaks. One tool is an interactive graphic showing the dramatic drop in U.S. infection rates once vaccines were introduced. The other, known as the FRED Measles Epidemic Simulator, is a visualization tool to show how quickly measles will spread when a given percentage of the population is not immunized. Dr. Donald Burke, Dean at Pitt Public Health credits the Pitt Public Health Dynamics Laboratory team for creation of these tools. The team included Dr. Wilbert Van Panhuis, assistant professor of epidemiology. »



Dr. Wilbert Van Panhuis



TYPE 1 DIABETES AND ACCELERATED BRAIN AGING

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
May 6, 2015

Brains of people with type 1 diabetes show signs of accelerated aging and Caterina Rosano, M.D., M.P.H., senior author and associate professor in the department of epidemiology, says further study is needed to determine if early detection and intervention could reduce or delay these cognitive complications. Findings from the Pittsburgh Epidemiology of Diabetes Complications Study, led by Pitt Public Health epidemiology professor and study co-author Trevor Orchard, M.D., documents long-term complications of type 1 diabetes. Additional authors on this study are Janice Zgibor, R.Ph, Ph.D, Robert Boudreau, Ph.D, and Tina Costacou, Ph.D. »



Dr. Caterina Rosano



NOTABLE NEWS : CONTINUED //

EACH HOUR OF TV WATCHING INCREASES DIABETES RISK

University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences
April 1, 2015

Bonny Rockette-Wagner, Ph.D, director of physical activity assessment at Pitt Public Health reports in the journal *Diabetologia* that “less time spent watching TV per day over a three-year follow-up translated into a lower risk of developing diabetes, even after controlling for how much physical activity people were reporting.” The investigation by Dr. Wagner and senior author Andrea Kriska, Ph.D, professor of epidemiology, was part of the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), a clinical research trial funded by the NIH. »



Dr. Andrea Kriska

LOWER BIRTH WEIGHT ASSOCIATED WITH PROXIMITY OF MOTHER’S HOME TO GAS WELLS

University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences
June 3, 2015

According to a Pitt Public Health analysis of southwestern Pennsylvania birth records, pregnant women living close to a high density of natural gas wells drilled with hydraulic fracturing were more likely to have babies with lower birth weights than women living farther from such activity. The study, funded by the Heinz Endowments and published in the current issue of *PLOS ONE*, shows a concerning association that warrants further investigation. Senior author is Dr. Evelyn Talbott, professor of epidemiology and a co-author is Dr. LuAnn Brink, adjunct assistant professor of epidemiology. »



Dr. Evelyn Talbott

LEWIS KULLER DEBATES 2015 DIETARY GUIDELINES

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
April 7, 2015

The 2015 Dietary Guidelines stated that cholesterol was “not a nutrient of concern for overconsumption.” However, several notable leaders in the field, including Dr. Lewis Kuller, professor emeritus at Pitt Public Health, protested. He stated that many research studies dating to the 1950’s through the 1970’s clearly showed that dietary cholesterol raised blood cholesterol. Dietary cholesterol intake has dramatically decreased which represents “a major public health advance” and Dr. Kuller notes that this is at risk if limits on dietary cholesterol are removed. »



Dr. Lewis Kuller

THE IMPACT OF VITAMIN D

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
April 20, 2015

Lisa Bodnar, Associate Professor of Epidemiology at Pitt Public Health was quoted in a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article on the topic of Vitamin D and skin color. Her research has shown that women who have Vitamin D deficiencies are more likely to deliver prematurely or get preeclampsia. »



Dr. Lisa Bodnar



NOTABLE NEWS : CONTINUED //**JANE CAULEY HONORED: 2015 CHANCELLOR'S RESEARCH AWARD**

Dr. Jane Cauley, Professor of Epidemiology and Pitt Public Health Associate Dean for Research, received the 2015 Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award in the Senior Scholar Category. The recipient of the 2011 Pitt Provost's Award for Excellence in Mentoring, Cauley has mentored 42 students, including 29 doctoral candidates. Among her many awards are the Reuters Influential Scientific Minds as well as the Golden Femur Award from the European Calcified Tissue Society, both presented in 2014.



Dr. Jane Cauley

“With your consistent record of outstanding research and persistent funding over the past 28 years, it is evident that you will continue on this trajectory of innovative and high quality research ...”

In announcing this award, Chancellor Gallagher commended Cauley's research on topics relevant to public health issues, her mentorship skills and achievements including leadership roles in professional societies such as the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research, the American College of Epidemiology, the American Public Health Association, the Endocrine Society and the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

“With your consistent record of outstanding research and persistent funding over the past 28 years, it is evident that you will continue on this trajectory of innovative and high quality research,” Gallagher wrote.

ANNE NEWMAN, JIAN-MIN YUAN PRESENT INAUGURAL PROVOST LECTURES

Dr. Anne Newman and Dr. Jian-Min Yuan were invited by Provost Patricia Beeson to present Inaugural Lectures for the Katherine Detre Endowed Chair of Population Health Science. The Provost's Inaugural Lecture series invites distinguished University of Pittsburgh faculty members to give a lecture marking their recent appointments to endowed chairs.



Dr. Anne Newman

Dr. Newman is the Katherine M. Detre Endowed Chair of Population Health Sciences. In her talk, Newman spoke of the coming 'Silver Tsunami' and focused not only on length of life but quality of life the overall increase in disability and the need for care and prevention.

Dr. Yuan is the Arnold Palmer Professor Cancer Prevention Research. He is associate director for Cancer Control and Population Sciences and leader of the Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention Program, both at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute. His research focuses on environmental exposure and gene-environmental interaction in the etiology of cancer, biomarkers and risk prediction of cancer, and chemopreventive effect of dietary agents to combat cancer.



Dr. Jian-Min Yuan



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION //

STAFF RECOGNITION AWARDS :

The following staff members were recognized for their years of service on Thursday June 4, 2015

DAVID HALLAM
MYOUNG KEUN LEE
MARY MARTINEZ
SARA PARISI
VICTOR WASHY
5 years

TAMARA HALLER
AMY SCHORR
20 years

KIMBERLY BERINGER
MARY TRANCHINE
30 years

SUSAN JEFFRIES
MICHELLE UTZ-KILEY
10 years



Staff Recognition Awards 2015

EPIDEMIOLOGY ALUMNI RECOGNIZED BY PITT PUBLIC HEALTH :

DR. NANCY GLYNN

Dr. Nancy Glynn, assistant professor of epidemiology was presented with the Pitt Public Health Margaret F. Gloninger Service Award at the 2015 Alumni Awards presentation on May 29. Dr. Glynn conducts research in physical activity, fatigue and disability in older adults and is also Director of

the master's degree program in the department of epidemiology.

Nancy has a long history of service in her personal life, having received service awards at the 2014 Pitt Honors Convocation and was also honored as Volunteer of the Year for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRI).

In her role as adviser and mentor, she recognized that students shared her zeal and sentiment for service opportunities. Together with our students, she established a new student service organization called "Epi Gives Back". The organization fosters student initiatives and provides them with leadership opportunities for service through service-based learning. The program has generated tremendous good will in the community and has garnered much publicity for the group's many volunteer experiences.



Dr. Maria Brooks, Dr. Tushar Singh and Dr. Nancy Glynn

DR. TUSHAR SINGH

Dr. Tushar Singh was inducted into the Omicron Chapter of the Delta Omega National Public Health Honor Society. He is an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta. Before...*continued on page 5*



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION : CONTINUED //

continued from page 4... joining the CDC, he earned his Ph.D degree in Epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh. He worked as a physician in India before coming to the United S to pursue a PhD.

During his Ph.D work, Tushar helped in designing, developing, and managing a cohort study, the Mobility and Independent Living in Elders Study (MILES), in rural older Indians. He trained the study staff in India in research and data collection protocols, and worked as the quality control and data manager for the study. Additionally, he collaborated on several other multicenter projects at the Center for Aging and Population Health, University of Pittsburgh.

At the CDC, Tushar works in the Office on Smoking and Health (OSH). His work in OSH includes research on marijuana, tobacco, and electronic cigarettes in youth and adults. In addition to this, as part of his work as an EIS Officer, Tushar is sent nationally and internationally to investigate and assist with disease outbreaks and epidemics. He deployed to Sierra Leone in October-November 2014 with the CDC’s Ebola Response Team and helped to establish a district level Command Center for Ebola response and trained staff in case investigation and contact tracing during his deployment. Tushar attributes many accomplishments in his current work to the training and education he received as a doctoral student at the University of Pittsburgh.



Alumni Awards Dinner 2015

CONGRATULATIONS //

HONORS, AWARDS, PROMOTIONS :

LISA BODNAR

presented the Mary Lewis Endowment Lecture at Michigan State University’s Department of Nutrition

CLARE BUNKER

NEW NIH Fogarty R25 – “Empowering Indian Health Researchers with Computational Modeling Tools”

PRIMARY FACULTY APPOINTMENT :

ELSA STROTMAYER

Associate Professor, with tenure

SECONDARY FACULTY APPOINTMENT :

JENNIFER BRACH

Associate Professor



DEAN'S DAY 2015 //

The following Department of Epidemiology students were recognized at the Celebration of Students on April 10

DEPARTMENT AWARDS, DOCTORAL CATEGORY :

MAURA MALONEY
STEPHEN LIU
KYLE FREESE

DEPARTMENT AWARD, MASTER'S CATEGORY :

KRISTIN KOMAZEC

DEAN'S DAY SECOND PLACE, DOCTORAL :

HSINGHUA LIN
HRISTINA DENIC
LAURA SIMINERIO

HEALTH DISPARITIES POSTER COMPETITION FIRST PLACE, TIED :

LOREN SCHLEIDEN

DELTA OMEGA AWARDS:

TUSHAR SINGH
Dissertation Award

ZHENPING ZHAO
Essay Award

HSINGHUA LIN
Poster Award

DELTA OMEGA STUDENT INDUCTEES :

NANCY NIEMCZYK
ASHLEY PARSONS
MATTHEW WEAVER
JESSICA WHITE



Michael Balke accepts the Dean's Service Award from Dean Donald Burke

GRADUATION AWARDS :

MICHAEL BALKE

Dean's Service Award

ASHLEY PARSONS

Dean's Service Award

HRISTINA DENIC

Outstanding Student Award (master's category)

STEPHEN SMAGULA

Outstanding Student Award (doctoral category)

TO SUBMIT NEWS TO THE EPIDEMIOLOGY NEWSLETTER :

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