

Notable News

JANE CAULEY APPOINTED DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

Dr. Jane Cauley, professor of epidemiology, and a renowned international expert in the epidemiology of aging and women's health, particularly in the prevention of osteoporotic fracture in older women and the role of hormones in breast cancer has been appointed a Distinguished Professor at the University of Pittsburgh. She has served as the Principal Investigator for major cohort studies, including the Study of Osteoporotic Fractures, ongoing since 1986 and the Osteoporotic Fracture Risk in Men Study (MrOS), ongoing since 2000. These studies have followed over 16,000 men and women since their inception. She has made major contributions to enhancing our understanding of race and ethnic differences in fracture risk, the role of vitamin D and hormone therapy in fracture prevention and has extended the inflammation theory of aging to osteoporotic fractures. In 2010, she led a World Health Organization International task force evaluating FRAX, a clinical fracture risk assessment tool that is used in many countries, including the US, for treatment guidelines for osteoporosis. Dr. Cauley instituted breast cancer follow-up in the Study of Osteoporotic Fractures and her paper in JAMA 1996 was the first manuscript showing a link between osteoporosis and breast cancer, two of the most common conditions affecting women. She was a Principal Investigator for the National Institute of Aging (NIA)-funded Testosterone Trial, which demonstrated safety, but limited improvements in physical and sexual function. Dr. Cauley is also recognized as an expert in the epidemiology of aging, and was the Principal Investigator for an NIA-funded training grant entitled, Training in the Epidemiology of Aging, for about 20 years. She has published over 700 manuscripts on topics related to osteoporotic fracture, falls and breast cancer.



Dr. Jane Cauley

Dr. Cauley has received numerous awards for teaching and research. She has trained many successful students and was awarded the University of Pittsburgh Provost award for excellence in mentoring. She has been recognized by the University of Pittsburgh with the Chancellor's Research Award. She won the Frederic C Bartter award from the American Society of Bone and Mineral research, the premier world-wide organization aimed at the scientific advancement of the etiology, epidemiology and treatment of metabolic bone diseases.

Dr. Cauley served as Vice-chair for Research in the Department of Epidemiology from 2006-2013 and is currently Associate Dean for Research in the Graduate School of Public Health. She was elected to the Board of Directors for the American College of Epidemiology and is currently serving as President of the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research, the major US organization for osteoporosis research.

Throughout her career, Professor Cauley has sustained the highest possible level of productivity in all areas of research, teaching and service, serving the University of Pittsburgh with great distinction. She richly deserves this recognition as being among the highest echelon of the faculty at The University of Pittsburgh.

We congratulate Professor Cauley on being appointed to the rank of Distinguished Professor. She will present a Provost's Lecture to mark this appointment at a future date.

Notable News continued

MANUSCRIPT SELECTED FOR CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

“Activity and Sedentary Time 10 Years After a Successful Lifestyle Intervention: The Diabetes Prevention Program” is due to be published in the March 2017 issue of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine (AJPM). The article was selected as one of two articles by the editors to be currently available online for all readers and results were featured in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette. In addition, because of its relevance to clinical practice, the article was also selected to be a part of the AJPM continuing medical education program for physicians. Authors include Dr. Bonny Rockette-Wagner, director of physical activity assessment and Dr. Andrea Kriska, professor of epidemiology both at Pitt Public Health.

for more about the CMS program visit www.ajpmonline.org/cme

read more from the Pittsburgh Post Gazette at bit.ly/2hsXsso



Dr. Andrea Kriska



Dr. Clare Bunker

CLARE BUNKER APPOINTED ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Dr. Clare Bunker, who has been a faculty member of the department of epidemiology for over 30 years, has just been appointed associate professor emeritus. She received her MPH from Johns Hopkins University and a PhD as well as post-doctoral fellowship at the department of epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh. Clare’s research interests have included prostate and ovarian cancer, molecular epidemiology, obesity, blood pressure, hypertension, diabetes, and birth outcome. She has been the principal investigator of NIH grants, specifically ‘Molecular Epidemiology of Prostate Cancer in Tobagonians’ and has also been the recipient of a Fogarty International grant ‘Empowering Indian Researchers with Computational Modeling Tools’ and has been the author and co-author of many important publications. Dr. Bunker celebrated her accomplishments and this appointment with colleagues, friends and family at a reception hosted by Dean Donald Burke and Dr. Anne Newman at Pitt Public Health on December 8.

*Notable News continued***TONY FABIO PROMOTED**

The department is pleased to announce that Dr. Anthony Fabio has been promoted to associate professor of epidemiology. Dr. Fabio's main research interests include understanding social causes of violence as well as community and individual level causes of violence trends. He has published important works in leading journals including the American Journal of Epidemiology and the American Journal of Public Health and has led national symposiums on how social factors affect violence and has been invited to speak across the country. The NIH, the CDC, the Department of Defense and other institutions have funded his research. Additionally, Dr. Fabio works in other areas, notably traumatic brain injury, where he provides epidemiologic and statistical expertise including novel statistical modeling techniques. He received an MPH and PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh and was the Director of the Center for Injury Research and Control (CIRCL) from 2008 to 2010 and served as a Visiting Professor at Cambridge University, England. We congratulate him on this well-deserved promotion.



Dr. Anthony Fabio



Dr. Wendy King

WENDY KING RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR BARIATRIC SURGERY RESEARCH

The American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) has awarded Dr. Wendy King, associate professor of epidemiology at Pitt Public Health, the Circle of Excellence Award. The award was recently presented at the group's annual conference luncheon to recognize and honor a member who has made a significant and meaningful contribution to the Integrated Health Sciences Section of the ASMBS. The ASMBS plays a large role in improving the care and treatment of those with obesity. King has studied a wide array of outcomes resulting from bariatric surgery over the past decade, including the positive effects of surgery on pain, physical function, urinary incontinence, fertility, sexual function and depressive symptoms, and more recently has focused on safety concerns including substance use disorder, prescribed opioid use and suicide.

"I was touched to learn that I was nominated for the Circle of Excellence Award by my highly-respected colleague and a former president of the ASMBS, Dr. Bruce Wolfe," King said. "The Integrated Health section of ASMBS is an inspiring group of health professionals dedicated to education, research, public awareness and advocacy, as well as patient care."

read more from Inside UPMC at bit.ly/2fiYHcY

*Notable News continued***STUDY ADDS PCBS TO LIST OF CHEMICALS LINKED TO AUTISM**

Dr. Jennifer Adibi, assistant professor of epidemiology, is quoted in a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article about the association between polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and autism that has been found in a study led by a Drexel University researcher and published last month in Environmental Health Perspectives.

The relative risks of the chemicals reported in the study “are not trivial,” and “are definitely noteworthy,” said Dr. Adibi, “I feel that evidence like this demonstrates that the standard suite of chemicals in our bodies and in our food supply are tweaking our biology in ways that may be adding up to measurable differences in the overall development of children and the overall reproductive function of our species.”

read more from the Pittsburgh Post Gazette at bit.ly/2c1MbgJ



Dr. Jennifer Adibi

**STUDIES SHOW PEOPLE GET MORE BENEFITS FROM EXERCISE AS THEY AGE**

Findings from the Cardiovascular Health Study were featured in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette to emphasize benefits from activity for older adults. “We were interested in the lifestyle factors because those are modifiable,” Dr. Newman said. “We see a big difference in people who have healthy lifestyles by all measures. It’s not just a matter of influencing longevity — it’s a matter of influencing quality of life. It might seem obvious, but it hasn’t been obvious from previous reports.” Dr. Newman, chair of the department of epidemiology, and colleagues collected data over 25 years on 5,888 individuals 65 and older in the Cardiovascular Health Study, about one-fourth of them from Allegheny County. Participants were asked at the outset about their various lifestyle behaviors and then monitored afterward to assess whether they had become disabled and how long their period of disability was before death. The findings were published in the November Journal of the American Geriatrics Society by lead author Dr. Mini Jacob, a former Pitt doctoral student now at Boston University. The number of disabled years preceding death — meaning the period in which participants had trouble with basic functions such as walking, bathing, dressing or eating — for everyone averaged 4.5 years for women and 2.9 years for men. But there was significant variance from the average, depending on a person’s habits at the time they entered the study.

read more from the Pittsburgh Post Gazette at bit.ly/2fqIjui

Notable News continued

RENOVATION UPDATE

Renovations to the Graduate School of Public Health continue and the next phase of construction has necessitated office moves for many epidemiology faculty and staff. In October, the Epidemiology Data Center (EDC) moved from its original location in Parran Hall to a new home in Schenley Place at 4420 Bayard Street. The EDC occupies the entire 6th and part of the 5th floors of this building and the move has brought most of its faculty and staff back together after many years of separation. In addition, many faculty and staff whose offices were located in central Parran Hall were moved to newly renovated offices in South Parran Hall. Stay tuned for more updates at Pitt Public Health.



new Parran South offices



Epidemiology



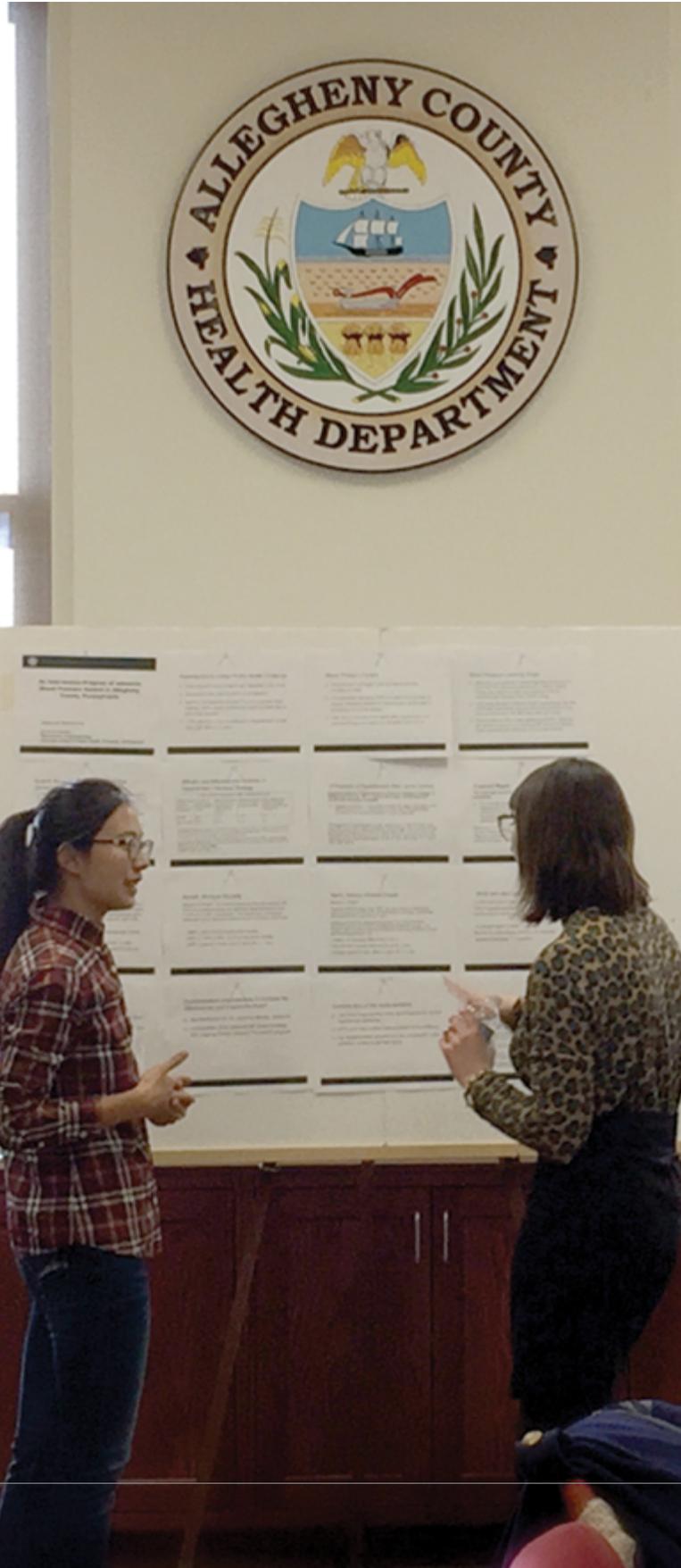
Schenley Place



EDC @ Schenley



Notable News continued



STUDENTS PRESENT AT ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

On Wednesday December 7, students enrolled in the Epidemiological Basis of Disease Control course, presented their class project posters at the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD), in Downtown Pittsburgh. In attendance were Dr. LuAnn Brink, Chief of Epidemiology at ACHD and Dr. Kristen Mertz, Medical Epidemiologist at ACHD, both of whom are adjunct faculty in the department of epidemiology. Some poster topics included: Control of Hypertension, Blood Lead levels in Children, Increasing Physical Activity in Communities and Screening for Aneurysms. The collaboration between the ACHD and the department of epidemiology provides a rich environment for students to discuss and evaluate the public health impact of preventive interventions.



ACHD



ACHD

Student Corner

MENTORING: WHAT IS IT, AND WHAT MAKES IT SUCCESSFUL?

Although many would describe mentoring broadly as a relationship between a trusted counselor and a protégé or “mentee,” each student-faculty mentoring relationship is as unique as the individuals who create it, but most describe it as ‘invaluable’.

Dr. Emma Barinas-Mitchell and her mentee, Natalie Suder, a PhD student and trainee on the Cardiovascular T32 training grant were interviewed to learn why both believe their relationship has been successful on multiple levels.

A solid foundation: Dr. Barinas-Mitchell armed herself with the numerous resources available to Epidemiology faculty when initiating her relationship with Natalie, including the Student Handbook as well as a timeline map developed by the late Dr. Kim Sutton-Tyrrell. Natalie received copies of planning documents, discussed her goals, and ensured she was aware of all program requirements.

Mentoring styles: Individual discussions and peer mentoring are built into their relationship model. Natalie also participates in mentor-recommended informal networking and mentoring experiences, and seeks others independently.

Defining expectations but remaining flexible: Communication is “very open;” it is primarily verbal, but important decisions are documented. There is strong respect for each other’s contributions and available time. Natalie views her mentor as a dedicated advocate, and Dr. Barinas-Mitchell believes Natalie has enlarged her “research repertoire.”

They meet at least once a week, and re-evaluate plans as necessary. Their consistent interaction enables potential issues to be addressed proactively.

After graduation ... Both anticipate staying in touch after Natalie launches her career, and hope to continue learning from and supporting each other.



2016 Holiday Research Symposium



Epi in Action!

Epi in Action!

2016 Epi in Action! Poster Session



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.

New Grants

DR. JENNIFER ADIBI

New NIH R56 “Placental Molecule Secretions Measured in Early Pregnancy are Targets of Endocrine Disruption and are Indicators of Sex-Specific Fetal Development”

and

University of Pittsburgh Cura Zika and FIOCRUZ grant to focus on the viral impact on the placenta during the first trimester of pregnancy

DR. JEAN NACHEGA

New NIH/Fogarty D43 “Pittsburgh-Stellenbosch University AIDS-comorbidities Training Research Program”

DR. ANDREA ROSSO

New NIH R21 “Cognitive Decline, Brain Aging, Physical Environment, and Mobility”

Promotion

DR. TONY FABIO

Associate Professor

Appointments

DR. JANE CAULEY

Distinguished University Professor

DR. CLARE BUNKER

Associate Professor Emeritus

DR. KAYE KRAMER

Adjunct Associate Professor

