

EVENTS

- EPIDEMIOLOGY SEMINARS
- DEAN'S DAY
- COMMENCEMENT 2014

DR. LEWIS H. KULLER HONORED ON HIS SPECIAL BIRTHDAY //

Colleagues gathered on January 9 to honor and celebrate Dr. Lewis Kuller on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Dr. Kuller is one of the founding fathers of chronic disease especially cardiovascular disease epidemiology and he continues to work full time as a major contributor to the field of epidemiology on studies to understand the etiology and potential to prevent dementia in late life.

In addition to being awarded all of the top accolades of the University and the American Heart Association, among others, Dr. Anne Newman noted

“I would also like to point out that he has devoted the full measure of 40 years (that’s half of his life) to this department and to the University as a member of the faculty and as our former department chair for 30 years. Because of the many gifts of his writing, teaching, mentorship and leadership that he has shared with all of us, it is only appropriate

that we should wish him well on his birthday today.”



NOTABLE NEWS //
FISH CONSUMPTION AIDS IN HEART HEALTH, PITT STUDY FINDS

Pittsburgh Post Gazette
March 4, 2014

Japanese men eat about 10 times more fish than Caucasian American men. That dietary fact could help explain

“the level of marine-derived omega-3 acids consumed must be higher than previously thought...”

why middle-aged Japanese men have less than a third the rate of coronary artery calcification than their American counterparts. An international study involving the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health has found that fish consumption may have advantages in heart health. But the level of marine-derived omega-3 acids consumed must be higher than previously thought to impact substantial protection, said Akira Sekikawa, a Pitt associate professor. »

LOW VITAMIN D TIED TO A PREGNANCY RISK

New York Times
Jan. 30, 2014

Using preserved blood samples of pregnant women, researchers have found that low vitamin D levels are associated with an increased risk for severe ...continued on page 2



Dr. Akira Sekikawa



Dr. Lisa M. Bodnar

NOTABLE NEWS CONTINUED //

preeclampsia, a serious and sometimes fatal disorder of pregnancy. ... “Severe preeclampsia is rare,” said the lead author, Dr. Lisa M. Bodnar, an associate

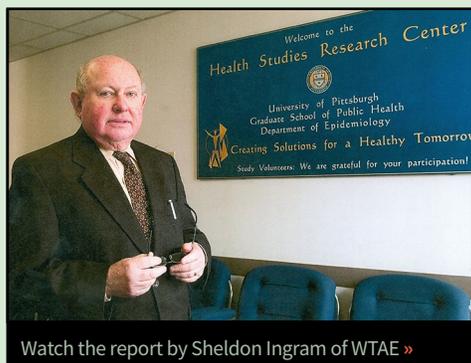
“severe preeclampsia is rare...”

professor of epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh. “And we can’t determine whether low vitamin D causes it. Women should not run out to the drugstore and buy vitamin D supplements. If you’re concerned, you should talk to your health care provider and continue to take your prenatal vitamins.” »

RESEARCHERS REVEAL WEAPON AGAINST ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE

WTAE
Jan. 28, 2014

Alzheimer’s disease has a grip on more than 5 million Americans, according to the Alzheimer’s Association. ... Dr. Lewis Kuller, professor emeritus at the University of Pittsburgh, just wrapped up a 22-year study on the disease that focuses on 900 senior citizens. »



Watch the report by Sheldon Ingram of WTAE »

DR. ANNE B. NEWMAN FEATURED ARTICLE ON LONGEVITY AND HEALTHY AGING

Pitt Magazine
Winter 2014

Dr. Anne B. Newman was featured for an article in the Winter 2014 issue of the Pitt Magazine entitled Well Aged, where she offers her insight on the mysteries of longevity and healthy aging– “Our research focuses on getting more people to live well rather than to simply live longer. People who live a long time show us what I believe is the true human potential for healthy aging. So it is not longevity per se that interests me but that the pathway to longevity can help us understand the pathway to health and function in old age.” »



Dr. Newman with a portrait of her maternal grandfather, Sylvester Bies, who lived to the age of 92

“Our research focuses on getting more people to live well rather than to simply live longer...”

FIRST PHASE OF \$75-MILLION PITT PUBLIC HEALTH CONSTRUCTION PROJECT COMPLETED

The Graduate School of Public Health debuted the first phase of a \$75-million construction and renovation project at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on January 30: a 58,000 square-foot laboratory pavilion and a 215-seat auditorium, construction of which both began in Fall 2011.



Completed Lab Pavilion

The laboratory pavilion—three floors with 16,000-square-feet of laboratories per floor—will be used for research related to infectious diseases and microbiology, human genetics, environmental and occupational health, and epidemiology. The new auditorium will serve as a lecture and event space, welcoming top national and international leaders in public health. The epidemiology laboratories include the Molecular Epidemiology Laboratory, Dr. Joseph Zmuda, Director, the Heinz Nutrition Laboratory, ...continued on page 3

NOTABLE NEWS CONTINUED //

Dr. Rhobert Evans, Director and the Environmental Health, Reproduction, and Development Laboratory, Dr. Jennifer Adibi, Director. »



Amber Celender in the new Heinz Chemistry and Nutrition Laboratory

EPIDEMIOLOGY SPRING SEMINAR: ALUMNI MATTERS

The theme of this term's Seminar Series is Alumni Matters. Dr. Jane Cauley, Professor of Epidemiology and Vice Chair for Research and Dr. Ronald LaPorte,

Professor of Epidemiology coordinated this effort to provide students with a series of inspiring presentations featuring many former students of the department. The resulting series exemplifies the diverse and interesting career paths of our graduates. Several of the speaker's biographies detail how their graduate education contributed to their professional success. As one example, Dr. Rashida Dorsey credits her training in the Department of Epidemiology and experiences at Pitt Public Health as helping to provide the foundation necessary for her career path. The statistical and methodological principals and training in chronic disease received through her doctoral training provided an important background for data and statistical policy work and developing chronic disease analytic projects at the national level. She also worked with the Center for Minority Health on disparities related projects

and served as the president of the Minority Students Organization, which were important stepping stones for continued work in the area of disparities and minority health including engaging with stakeholders and the community for disparities-related efforts. She was inducted into Delta Omega, Honorary Society of Public Health, at the University of Pittsburgh and is a recipient of the Dean's Service award from Pitt Public Health. See the schedule of upcoming seminars and read more about each speaker. »



Dr. Rashida Dorsey

UNIVERSITY HONORS CONVOCATION 2.28.2014 //

Each year the University pays tribute to the outstanding achievements of faculty and students.

FACULTY RECOGNIZED AT THIS YEAR'S CONVOCATION :

MARIANNE BERTOLET

Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Pitt Public Health

LISA M. BODNAR

Young Professional Achievement Award, Coalition for Excellence in Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology

MARIA MORI BROOKS

Dr. James L. Craig Endowed Excellence in Education Award, Graduate School of Public Health

NANCY W. GLYNN

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Western Pennsylvania Chapter Volunteer of the Year Award

SAMAR EL KHOUDARY

New Investigator Award, 23rd Annual Meeting of the North American Menopause Society

MARY KAYE KRAMER

Technology Innovator Award 2013, University of Pittsburgh Office of Technology

ANDREA KRISKA

University of Pittsburgh Innovator Award, presented by the Office of the Provost, for work done on Group Lifestyle Balance

IVA MILJKOVIC

American Heart Association's Award, for the top 10 percent of the accepted abstracts

CHRISTINA WASSEL

American Heart Association Functional Genomics and Translational Biology Council Fellow

JANICE ZGIBOR

Best Paper Award, presented by ACM GIS International conference on Advances in Geographic Information Systems, Redondo Beach, Calif.

**UNIVERSITY HONORS
CONVOCATION 2.28.2014
CONTINUED //**

**STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT THIS
YEAR'S CONVOCATION :**

JILL DIESEL

*Arlene Cagguila Student Award in
Nutrition presented by the Department of
Epidemiology, for deserving students
studying nutrition*

Dean's Day Award, Doctoral Category

MANSI PATEL

GABRIELLE SNYDER

ANNA ZILINSKAS

*Campaign for the Next 500 Scholarship
presented by Pitt Public Health, with
consideration for merit and diversity*

LYNNE MARSHALL

*Dean's Day Catherine Cartier-Ulrich Memorial
Award, Doctoral Category presented by
the Center for Public Health Practice for
outstanding student research*

ABHISHEK VISHNU

*Dean's Day Delta Omega Award presented by
Pitt Public Health for the best research poster
presentation, with the opportunity to attend
and present at the American Public Health
Association annual meeting*

QU TIAN

DOCTORAL CATEGORY

*Dean's Day Epidemiology Award presented
by the department for outstanding research*

TENLEY BROWNRIGHT

MASTER'S CATEGORY

*Dean's Day Epidemiology Award presented
by the department for outstanding research*

CONGRATULATIONS //

FACULTY :

The following were recognized at the December 2013 Faculty meeting:

LISA M. BODNAR

*NIH R01 grant "Innovative Approaches to
Inform Evidence-Based Pregnancy Weight
Gain Guidelines"*

IVA MILJKOVIC

*NIH R01 grant "Ectopic adiposity in Black
Men with High Type 2 Diabetes Risk"*

MARIA MORI BROOKS

*NIH R21 grant "Treatment and Risk Factor
Determinants of Cardiovascular Outcomes
in BARI 2D"*

JANICE ZGIBOR

*received award from the Arthritis
Foundation National Partnership*

WENDY KING

promoted to Research Associate Professor

"My primary research focus is determining physical activity and behavioral practices that support weight loss and optimal health in obese adults, in particular, following bariatric surgery. Other major areas of study are the impact of bariatric surgery on psychosocial, physical function and women's health outcomes, as well as the design, coordination and analysis of multi-center studies. I currently serve as the principal investigator of the Data Coordinating Center for a three-site NIH-funded observational study investigating psychopathology and quality of life pre and post bariatric surgery. I also serve as a co-investigator on three NIH-funded studies: the Longitudinal Assessment of Bariatric Surgery (LABS), Innovative approaches to Diet, Exercise and Activity (IDEA), and Early Adult Reduction of Weight through Lifestyle Intervention (EARLY) trials."



Dr. Wendy C King

STUDENTS :

JESSICA WHITE

DRPH STUDENT

*Received a Young Investigator Award and was selected for a Brief Oral presentation and
Poster Session at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections 2014*