

**DR. RONALD LAPORTE APPOINTED PROFESSOR EMERITUS //**

After more than thirty three years as tenured faculty in the Department of Epidemiology, Dr. Ronald LaPorte was appointed a Professor Emeritus on June 2. During this time, he published over 500 articles in scientific journals including Science, Nature, Nature Medicine, Lancet and the British Medical Journal. A primary focus of Dr. LaPorte’s research has been Diabetes Epidemiology. He was one of the first, in 1988, to receive the Kelly West Award for outstanding contributions to diabetes from the American Diabetes Association. He established the Supercourse, a global health project with a network of over 50,000 leaders in research and global health which collected and shared lectures at no cost for individuals to use worldwide. His latest area of interest has been in establishing the Supercourse at the library of Alexandria. Dr. LaPorte is proud of his teaching and mentoring as he has advised many students locally and even more worldwide. He received the Pitt Public Health Outstanding Teaching Award in 1991 and the Lilienfeld Award for Lifetime Achievement in education from the American Public Health Association in 2006. Many of his former students were in attendance for his appointment ceremony including Dr. Lucile Adams-Campbell, Professor, Georgetown University, Dr. NanTajima, professor Emeritus, Jikei University, Dr. Marian Rewers, Professor, University of Colorado, Denver, Dr. Jill Norris, Professor and Chair, Department of Epidemiology, University of Colorado, Denver, Dr. Benjamin Acosta-Carare, Professor, National University of Mexico and Dr. Eugene Shubnikov, Research Scientist, Institute of Internal Medicine, Russia. In his seminar titled ‘Growing a Tribe’, which wrapped up the Epidemiology Spring 2014 series, he outlined the importance of growing a network of epidemiologists to impact global health. He has certainly done that and more.

**DR. ANNE NEWMAN APPOINTED AS FIRST KATHERINE M. DETRE ENDOWED CHAIR //**

Dr. Donald Burke, Dean of Pitt Public Health has announced that Dr. Anne Newman, Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology, has been appointed as the first Katherine M. Detre Endowed Chair of Population Health Science in the Graduate School of Public Health. The endowed chair was named after the late Katherine M. Detre, one of the nation’s foremost epidemiologists, particularly noted for her leadership of large-scale clinical studies investigating cardiovascular disease. Dr. Detre was a distinguished professor of epidemiology and founder of Pitt Public Health’s Epidemiology Data Center.



Dr. Anne Newman

Dean Burke states ‘Dr. Newman is an internationally known expert in aging and public health. Through her brilliant research, she has elucidated how persons can remain productive, active and healthy as they age. Appointment to a named chair is among the highest honors a university can bestow upon a member of its faculty. It recognizes the exceptional quality and importance of Dr. Newman’s work. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Newman.’



## DR. TREVOR ORCHARD RECEIVES TOP MENTORSHIP AWARD //

Dr. Trevor Orchard received the 2014 Provost's Award of Excellence in Mentoring. This honor, awarded on April 8 particularly recognizes Dr. Orchard's commitment to mentoring and his success with doctoral students. He sets high standards for his students and provides them with the individualized support they need to achieve their goals.

Dr. Orchard is Professor of Epidemiology in the Graduate School of Public Health since 1992 with a secondary appointment in the Department of Medicine and Pediatrics in the School of Medicine. Dr. Orchard is internationally known for his work in Diabetes and Cardiovascular Epidemiology and Prevention. He has led one of the longest running studies of the cardiovascular complications of type 1 diabetes, documenting the importance of the control of lipid disorders and hypertension. He has made a significant impact on the discipline by supporting students to become the next generation of leaders in his field. He actively engages his trainees in the research process. This is evidenced by his trainee's very high rate of publications and frequent presentations at major national meetings. He began a project on diabetes in Rwanda and has had students actively engaged there for the past few years. His students have been very successful in remaining in academics and obtaining other meaningful positions as epidemiologists. Dr. Orchard's outstanding record of mentoring accomplishments adds to the distinction of the University of Pittsburgh.



## NOTABLE NEWS //

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT NAMES DR. LUANN BRINK AS CHIEF EPIDEMIOLOGIST

Pittsburgh Post Gazette  
April 25, 2014

The Allegheny County Health Department has announced the appointment of LuAnn L. Brink, Ph.D., as Chief Epidemiologist in charge of its Bureau of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

"As a member of our senior leadership team, Dr. Brink will spearhead efforts to develop our surveillance systems, including health and disease monitoring. She will help lead our needs assessment process, a function critical to identifying and addressing public health needs," said Health Director Dr. Karen Hacker.

Dr. Brink comes to the Health Department from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, where she served as Co-Director for the Academic Center of Excellence to the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Environmental Public

Health Tracking Network and worked extensively on various environmental issues including lead exposure, air pollution and asthma and where she is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Epidemiology.

*"Dr. Brink will spearhead efforts to develop our surveillance systems..."*

She previously worked for the Health Department as an Epidemiology Manager from 2004 to 2008, supervising disease outbreak investigations, conducting environmental hazard assessments and developing active surveillance systems for monitoring hospital emergency department visits.

Dr. Brink has a Doctor of Philosophy and a Master of Public Health in

Epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Notre Dame. »



Dr. LuAnn Brink

## NOTABLE NEWS: CONTINUED //

### LANDMARK CLINICAL TRIAL PROVES PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PREVENTS LOSS OF MOBILITY IN OLDER ADULTS

A 20-minute brisk walk around the neighborhood each day could significantly help older adults maintain their ability to walk, according to the results of the longest-running randomized clinical trial evaluating physical activity in the elderly. The University of Pittsburgh was one of eight field centers for the Lifestyle Interventions and Independence for Elders or LIFE study that recruited

*“Doctors have long suspected that maintaining or starting physical activity is important in promoting good health as we age...”*

and monitored trial participants. The much-anticipated findings have been published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. “Doctors have long suspected that maintaining or starting physical activity is important in promoting good health as we age,” said **Dr. Anne Newman**, principal investigator on the NIH study and chair of Pitt Graduate School of Public Health’s Department of Epidemiology. “But until this study, we didn’t have the proof necessary to say that daily exercise, sustained over several years, truly can prevent loss of mobility. Doctors can now feel confident that moderate physical activity improves the independence and mobility of older adults.” »



LIFE study participants practice squats at the University of Florida, which mimic rising out of a chair and are important in maintaining mobility and independence in older adults.

### EXPERTS: EXCESS SUGAR CONSUMPTION LEADS TO A HOST OF DISEASES

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
April 11, 2014

A 2012 University of Pittsburgh study conducted by **Dr. Lewis Kuller**, professor Emeritus of Epidemiology at Pitt Public Health, and **Dr. Bethany Barrone Gibbs**, assistant professor in Pitt’s department of health and physical activity and published in the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics which involved a four-year lifestyle intervention to gauge what impact lower sugar consumption would have on weight was cited recently regarding sugar consumption. The study, showed that women who reduced sugar consumption experienced weight loss in six months and also in 48 months. »

### 10 WAYS PITTSBURGH’S MEDICAL COMMUNITY IS CHANGING THE WORLD

Pittsburgh Magazine  
May 2014

Pittsburgh has been a center for medical research for decades. As the region’s university and hospital communities continue to grow and collaborate, the work being done here is changing — and saving — lives around the world. ... When it comes to traumatic brain injury in children, there are quite a few treatment guidelines but not a lot of evidence on their efficacy. ... TBI, which is more severe than concussion injury, is the leading cause of death and disability in children, according to **Dr. Stephen Wisniewski**, senior associate dean and co-director of the Epidemiology Data Center at Pitt Public Health. Falls and car accidents are common causes of such injuries. »

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION //**

The following Department of Epidemiology students were recognized at the Celebration of Students on Saturday April 26

**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH GRADUATION AWARDS :****AMANDA BERRY**

*Outstanding Student Award (master's category)*

**RACHEL WARD**

*Outstanding Student Award (doctoral category)*

**SARA MARSHALL**

*Dean's Service Award*

**DELTA OMEGA AWARDS :****VALERIE WEINZIERL**

*Thesis EPID*

**ANDREW ALTHOUSE**

*Dissertation EPID*

**DELTA OMEGA STUDENT INDUCTEES :****TANJA ROY****BONNIE ROCKETTE-WAGNER****KARL VANDERWOOD****DELTA OMEGA ALUMNI INDUCTEES :****SEAN RINELLA****AARON MENDELSON****DEAN'S DAY AWARDS 2014 :**

*School-wide awards*

**KAREN NUNLEY**

*EPIDEMIOLOGY*

*Dean's Day second place tied, doctoral*

**C. ELIZABETH SARLES**

*EPIDEMIOLOGY*

*Dean's Day first place, doctoral*

**KARL VANDERWOOD**

*PHD STUDENT, EPIDEMIOLOGY*

*Department Award, doctoral category*

**ZHENGPING ZHAO**

*MPH STUDENT*

*Department Award, master's category*



Dean's Day Awards 2014: Dr. Anne B. Newman, Department Chair, Awardees: Karen Nunley, Karl Vanderwood, Charlotte "Beth" Sarles, Zhenping Zhao, and Dr. Caterina Rosano, Professor of Epidemiology

**PITT PUBLIC HEALTH ALUMNI REUNION HONORS DR. KAREN CRUICKSHANKS :**

At the first Pitt Public Health Alumni Reunion, held May 16-18, Dr. Karen Cruickshanks, who completed her Ph.D. in Epidemiology at in 1987 was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award for Research. This is one the highest awards given to alumni by the Graduate School of Public Health. Recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award are Pitt Public Health alumni who have made a significant contribution to the field of public health, to the school, or to both. While completing her PhD, Karen Cruickshanks worked on cohort studies of Type 1 diabetes with epidemiology faculty members Dr. Ronald LaPorte and Dr. Trevor Orchard. After completing her degree she served as an assistant professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, studying ethnic differences in Type 1 diabetes.



Dr. Karen Cruickshanks

Dr. Cruickshanks has been a faculty member at the University of Wisconsin-Madison since 1990. Her research program is studying the health problems of aging through epidemiological cohort studies. The Epidemiology of Hearing Loss Study (EHLS) is funded by the National Institute on Aging to study hearing, olfactory, and cognitive impairments in a population-based cohort of 3500 older residents of Beaver Dam, WI. The focus of this research is on the roles of inflammation and vascular factors on age-related disorders. In 2004, a new study of the adult offspring of the EHLS participants was funded by the National Institute of Aging, National Eye Institute and ...continued on page 5

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION //

### PITT PUBLIC HEALTH ALUMNI REUNION HONORS DR. KAREN CRUICKSHANKS : *CONTINUED*

National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders to study the genetic and environmental factors which contribute to age-related sensory impairments. She is the Director of the EpiSense Audiometry Reading (EAR) Center for studying hearing in the Hispanic Community Health Study, a multi-center study of 16,000 Latinos, and the Epidemiology of Diabetes Interventions and Complications (EDIC) study. A major theme of her research is the link between subclinical atherosclerosis and the sensory and neurological disorders of aging.

### STAFF RECOGNITION AWARDS :

*The following Epidemiology Staff were recognized for their years of service on Tuesday May 6, 2014*

**SARAH DODDS**  
**BRYAN SADLER**  
*5 years*

**JESSICA PETTIGREW**  
**VICKY PALOMBIZIO**  
**THERESA SAX**  
**ANTOINETTE MARASCO**  
**JOYCE MONROE**  
**CHRISTOPHER KANIA**  
**DARCY UNDERWOOD**  
**JUDITH RAGER**  
**MINDY COLUMBUS**  
*10 years*

**MARGARET GABRIEL**  
*20 years*

**MARIE WILKERSON**  
**LINDA DELUCO**  
**FRANI AVERBACH**  
*30 years*



2014 Staff Recognition Awards

## FACULTY : GRANTS CONGRATULATIONS //

**DR. LEE HARRISON**  
*NEW – NIH Fogarty D43 – “Fogarty HIV Research Training Program (Mozambique)”*

**DR. ANNE NEWMAN**  
*NEW – CDC – “Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research Center”*  
*read more »*

*RENEWAL – NIH – “Long Life Family Study: University of Pittsburgh Field Center”*

**DR. TREVOR ORCHARD**  
*RENEWAL - NIH MERIT – “Epidemiology of Diabetes Complications (EDC) Phase II – Renewal”*

**STUDENT PROFILE : ARLETE MILOQUE MAHUMANE //****MOZAMBIQUE, MOTIVATION, AND METTLE**

As a six-year-old child in Mozambique, a country on Africa's southeast coast with limited public health services, Arlete Mahumane had frequent bouts with asthma and was taken multiple times weekly to an emergency medical facility where patients often waited long hours for treatment. During one trip, a physician gave her an empty plastic supply box with a lid to play with – a valuable commodity in a place where toys were virtually nonexistent. "I thought the box was beautiful," she recalls.

After receiving it, she announced, "I'm going to be a physician!" The doctor and her family members laughed, and didn't realize the seriousness of the little girl's claim. What was the likelihood that this dream would come true?

*Now a physician and an Epidemiology MPH student anticipating graduation this year, Arlete remembers her experiences in Mozambique as difficult at times, yet instrumental in shaping her determination to succeed personally, academically, and professionally.*

"I would have no distractions; I knew what I wanted from a young age, and grabbed opportunity wherever I could," Arlete claims confidently, with her typical bright smile.

She credits her grandmother and mother and their emphasis on the importance of education as her greatest inspirations. They ensured she attended school despite minimal resources and poor transportation systems, and concentrated on academic achievement at home. Cousins living in remote villages were invited by her mother to live with them so they too could pursue higher education.

Few students in Mozambique, a country with a population of approximately 23 million, study at the secondary level and many young women are not encouraged to continue their educations. However, when there were only seventy-five medical school seats available country-wide to Arlete and her fellow students, she was offered admission.

Following six years of physician training in Beira Catholic University of Mozambique, she worked in pediatric emergency services in the country's primary hospital system, and acted as



Arlete Miloque Mahumane

a lecturer, student mentor, and Bioethics Committee member while honing skills in HIV patient care and participating in an oral cholera vaccine campaign.

Arlete met her current Department of Epidemiology mentor, Lee Harrison, MD, when he moved his NIH AIDS International Training and Research Program from Brazil to Mozambique. Through his support, she attended training in epidemiology and biostatistics at Johns Hopkins University. "It was here that I fell in love with public health! My mind was opened," exclaims Arlete. "Prevention is so important, and has not been emphasized much in my country."

Although she was involved in a serious accident one month before beginning her MPH that impaired movement in her legs, she pressed on, recovered sufficiently, and enrolled as planned.

Her goal is to return to Mozambique to establish an infectious disease research center and inspire more young women and men to train for public health careers.

What advice would Arlete give other Epidemiology students? "You already have the greatest opportunities here! Don't waste them. You can do what you want to do; dreams do come true. If you pray and believe, things will happen for you."