



University of Pittsburgh

Schools of the Health Sciences Media Relations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dedicated Alumni Honored by Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health

PITTSBURGH, May. 28, 2015 – Five [University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health](#) alumni will be recognized for their outstanding service in the field of public health during a special ceremony at the University Club on Friday evening.

“It is an honor to acknowledge the contributions of some of our most outstanding alumni,” said [Donald S. Burke, M.D.](#), Pitt Public Health dean and UPMC-Jonas Salk chair of global health. “The recipients of these prestigious awards have made significant contributions to the field of public health. I comment their outstanding performance and dedication to teaching, research and community service.”

- **Patricia Maryland, Dr.P.H.**, Class of 1991, will receive the Dean’s Distinguished Alumni Award for Practice in recognition of her extensive experience in strategic planning, patient care operations and service line management. She is currently the president of healthcare operations and chief operating officer at [Ascension Health](#) in St. Louis and has published on a variety of topics including gerontology, community health, and emergency medical services systems.
- **Yvette Conley, Ph.D., M.S.**, Class of 1999, will receive a Distinguished Alumni Award for Teaching and Dissemination in recognition of her leadership in incorporating genomics into the education of nurses across all levels of education at Pitt. Dr. Conley became the first geneticist in the country to hold a primary appointment within a school of nursing when she joined the faculty of the Pitt School of Nursing in 2000. She is an active faculty member for the [National Institute of Nursing Research Summer Genetics Institute](#) and is a [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholar National Mentor](#).
- **Nancy Obuchowski, Ph.D., M.S.Hyg.**, Class of 1991, will receive a Distinguished Alumni Award for Research in recognition of her work on the assessment of diagnostic and screening tests/visual aids and quantitative imaging biomarkers. She is the vice chairman of the department of quantitative health sciences at the [Cleveland Clinic](#), and professor of medicine at the [Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University](#). She serves

on the steering committee of the [Quantitative Imaging Biomarker Alliance](#) and is a member of the Data Safety Monitoring Committee of [ECOG-ACRIN Cancer Research Group](#). She has written two books and has authored or coauthored over 150 peer-reviewed publications.

- **Nancy Glynn, Ph.D.**, Class of 1994, will receive the Margaret F. Gloninger Service Award for her significant contributions in exercise epidemiology in older adult populations. She is Pitt's assistant professor and director of the master's degree program in the department of epidemiology and has a strong interest in the measurement of fatigability, physical activity, fitness and physical function in older adult populations. Recently, she designed and validated the [Pittsburgh Fatigability Scale](#), a unique assessment tool to measure fatigability in older adults that is being used in several large scale domestic and international research studies.
- **Megan Kavanaugh, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, Class of 2008, will receive the Early Career Excellence Award for her exceptional research on unintended pregnancy, contraceptive use and abortion-related issues. She is a senior researcher at the [Guttmacher Institute](#) in New York and her most recent research includes studies of long-acting reversible contraception. Dr. Kavanaugh has been awarded the Gary Stewart Scholarship for Research in Public Health from the [Association of Reproductive Health Professionals](#) and inducted into the [Delta Omega Public Health Honor Society](#). She is a member of the [American Public Health Association](#), the [Population Association of America](#), and the [Society of Family Planning](#). She has authored or coauthored more than 20 peer-reviewed and other scientific publications.

Also, two alumni – **Marisabel Sánchez, M.P.H.**, Class of 1993 and **Tushar Singh, Ph.D.**, class of 2014, – will be inducted into [Delta Omega](#), an honorary society for graduate studies in public health that recognizes merit and encourages further excellence in, and devotion to, public health work.

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About the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health

The University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, founded in 1948 and now one of the top-ranked schools of public health in the United States, conducts research on public health and medical care that improves the lives of millions of people around the world. Pitt Public Health is a leader in devising new methods to prevent and treat cardiovascular diseases, HIV/AIDS, cancer and other important public health problems. For more information about Pitt Public Health, visit the school's Web site at www.publichealth.pitt.edu.

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