

PITT iiii PUBLIC HEALTH

HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Newsletter



SPRING/SUMMER 2016

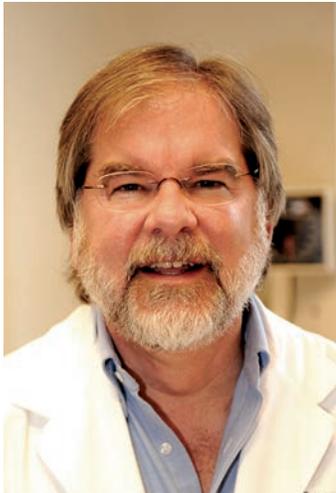


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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

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We have very good news to pass along as the 2015–16 academic year comes to a close. Our proposed joint MHA/MBA program with the Joseph M. Katz School of Business passed the final administrative hurdle with unanimous approval of the GSPH Dean’s Council, the Katz faculty, and the University Council on Graduate Study. Now that the provost has signed off on the program, we are able to advertise it vigorously to a national market.

Many of you have helped us to think through the benefits of such a joint program, and your feedback and encouragement have been very useful. I feel strongly that the development of this program will help us to attract an even stronger group of students and will hopefully pave the way for ongoing collaborative activities with the Katz School.

We also want to inform you about two notable faculty transitions. Judith Lave and Beaufort Longest are transitioning to emeritus status this year, and their experience and active dedication to the department will be missed. Profiles of these two faculty legends are on page 3.

Our students continue to excel. Profiles of selected students can be found on page 4, and the report of the upcoming summer residency postings can be found on page 6. As we have reviewed our applications for the fall of 2016, we are impressed with the quality and diversity of applicants. Once again I want to express my appreciation for those of you who have contributed to our scholarship funds and to assure you that they are being used to help attract and matriculate the best and brightest that we can.

We have expanded our course offerings this year with the development of a course called Comparative Global Health Systems and Policy, developed and taught by Wesley Rohrer; details are provided on page 5.

The alumni efforts continue to be invigorated, and I urge you to contact Mike Evans to become more involved. Please see his comments about ongoing alumni activities on page 10.

Please do not forget to let us know what you are doing and what we as a department can continue to do to enhance your alumni experience.

Mark S. Roberts, MD, MPP
Professor and Chair
Department of Health Policy and Management

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DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

DEPARTMENT BIDS FAREWELL TO LONGTIME FACULTY

This year will be a season of change for the department as we say farewell to two health policy leaders, Judith Lave, PhD, and Beaufort Longest, PhD. In this edition of the newsletter, we wanted to take the opportunity to showcase their impressive careers and accomplishments.



Judith Lave

Judith Lave is renowned for her research in and contributions to the field of health economics and health care financing. She began her doctoral career at Harvard University, where she earned her PhD in economics. While at the University of Pittsburgh, Lave was a professor of economics and also served as the chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management from 2002 to 2010. Before coming to Pitt, Lave served as director of the Office of Research at the Health Care Financing Administration, now the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Studies. As director, she led the team that helped to develop the Prospective Payment System, and Lave played an instrumental role in the development of the method by which teaching hospitals were paid under this system. During her time as director, Lave also studied the Medicaid program and became a leading expert in the complexities of the system. This experience, she said, was foundational for the rest of her career and guided much of her future work and research.

Over the course of her career, Lave published more than 177 scientific publications in the areas of health care financing, costs of graduate medical education, health insurance, health care for children, economics of mental health, and the cost of illness. Lave was a contributing researcher and author of a seminal article about the effects of providing health insurance to children, which was important in the development of the Children's Health Insurance Program. Lave and fellow researchers also were the first to develop the construct of "depression-free days," which was used in their cost-effectiveness analysis regarding treatment of depression.

Throughout her career, Lave has observed the field become more competitive and rigorous and has noticed the way in which research is conducted and problems are perceived has changed as measurement and quality metrics have become more important. Lave has enjoyed helping to guide policymakers through an increasingly complex system by serving on a number of commissions, including the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission and its predecessor, the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission.

For more than 40 years, Lave has taught and challenged students to understand the complex health care financing system. She found the most effective way to teach the concepts was through a hands-on approach, and she developed creative problems to illustrate the health care financing and payment issues faced by health administrators and policymakers in the real world of practice. In addition to teaching, Lave found great satisfaction in mentoring numerous doctoral students and helping them to embark upon their careers.



Beaufort Longest

After graduating with his doctoral degree from Georgia State University in 1972, Beaufort Longest went on to become a health policy pioneer. He cited his time at Northwestern University as well as the University of Pittsburgh as being the major points that have influenced his career. While in his position at Northwestern as an assistant professor of hospital and health services management, Longest was involved with four other colleagues in the establishment of one of the first centers in health policy research in the country. This experience led to another impressive accomplishment as a professor of health policy and management at the University of Pittsburgh, where he became the founding director of the Health Policy Institute (HPI) in 1980.

Longest directed HPI for the first 30 years of its existence and feels that the most significant outcome during his time as director was spent leading analytic research that revealed a structural problem of excess bed capacity in the Pittsburgh region. HPI then devoted resources to educating hospital decision makers by bringing in experts in the field and providing world-class Board of Trustees education to ensure more informed decision making.

Longest stated that the timing of his career allowed him to see major changes in both health administration and health policy. He watched the health care industry change from a majority of independent players and institutions to large integrated systems, while policy was more of an incremental process, with the exception of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Longest is known for writing one of the first health policy textbooks, and his *Health Policymaking in the United States* is currently in its sixth edition. He drew enormous satisfaction from writing textbooks and imparting his knowledge of health policy to generations to come.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

HPMA HOSTS EXECUTIVE PANEL

In March, the Health Policy and Management Association hosted Population Health vs. Public Health: What's the Difference? presented by an expert panel of public health and health care professionals on the differences and similarities between public health and population health initiatives in the health care system. The panel featured Karen Hacker, director of the Allegheny County Health Department; Steve Albert, chair of the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences at the Graduate School of Public Health; Susan Frank, vice president of supportive services and program development at the Allegheny Health Network, and Scott Lammie, chief financial officer of the UPMC Health Plan, and was moderated by A. Everette James, associate vice chancellor for health policy and planning at the schools of the health sciences.

The discussion centered on the distinctions between public health and population health, the impact of the framework developed by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Triple Aim concept on the rise of population health, and potential new opportunities for health systems and public health collaborations in research and practice. The presentation was open to the University community and also live streamed through the Mid-Atlantic Public Health Training Center housed at the Johns Hopkins University/Bloomberg School of Public Health and the governor's office as well as to public health professionals across the region.

DOCTORAL STUDENT APPOINTED IN SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



Inmaculada "Inma" Hernandez is a PhD student in health services research at the Graduate School of Public Health. Hernandez is graduating this summer and has accepted a faculty position at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, where she will begin in the fall. Hernandez was trained as a pharmacist in Spain, her home country, and completed her residency in England. After completing her training, she received a renowned and competitive scholarship, La Caixa Fellowship, to pursue graduate studies in the United States. While at Pitt, she has conducted pharmacoepidemiology and pharmacoconomics research with a focus on anticoagulants. Hernandez envisions an expanded role for pharmacists in the health care system, one in which pharmacists can increase proper medication use and decrease downstream health care costs. Hernandez looks forward to her faculty position and to "being in academia, because you are always at the point of innovation, with people learning and also people leaving to go into the real world." First and foremost, she looks forward to teaching, which she says is her greatest passion.

FIRST- AND SECOND-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



Yara Elbeshbishi is a first-year MPH student who graduated from the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry and math. Since enrolling in the Graduate School of Public Health, Elbeshbishi has been actively involved in both research and student activities, and she is a research assistant at the Health Policy Institute and the Center for Public Health Practice. Elbeshbishi was drawn to health policy because she views

it as the heart of public health, and looks forward to gaining more real-world experience in the health care delivery system during her summer practicum. Elbeshbishi selected Pitt Public Health because she felt the sense of community and priority for the students when she met Gerald Barron and Wesley Rohrer while visiting the school. With a year completed at the Graduate School of Public Health, Elbeshbishi has been grateful for the experiences she has had the opportunity to be a part of, and those are entirely due to the professors and colleagues with whom she has interacted. They are "great mentors to confide in and ask for advice. No matter what the experience, whether it's class, an internship, or meeting a faculty member, it has left me with much more than expected," she said. In the future, Elbeshbishi would like to evaluate and implement health policy that helps individuals to access needed care and that ultimately makes a difference in the public health world.



Caitlin Colkitt is a second-year MHA student who recently completed an extended residency at the UPMC Office of the Chief Medical and Scientific Officer. During her residency, she focused on the design and implementation of new models of care that aimed to minimize variation, on over diagnosis and treatment, and on reducing the overall cost of care. Colkitt also designed a clinical

pathway reporting dashboard that displayed pathway utilization, inpatient readmissions, length of stay, and overall financial benefit. She played an integral role in developing individual clinical pathway reporting packages that were distributed to executive leadership and clinical champions and assisted with synthesizing pathway accomplishments for board-level reporting. Through close work with administrative executives and senior clinical leaders, Colkitt says, the residency provided her with a "unique view of how all aspects of an integrated health care system work together to transform medicine and improve patient care." Upon graduation, Colkitt will accept the position of senior practice manager for Tri-State Neurosurgical Associates - UPMC. She credits the MHA program with providing her the training and professional development opportunities needed to succeed as a future health care leader.

COMPARATIVE GLOBAL HEALTH SYSTEMS AND POLICY

Consistent with the department's efforts to provide a global perspective in both our MPH and MHA Programs, Wes Rohrer developed and offered a new course, Comparative Global Health Systems and Policy, for the spring term 2016. This course is offered as an elective for our master's and doctoral students and is included in the Certificate in Global Health curriculum. As a condition of the funding support received from the Office of Education, Title VI, through the University's Global Studies Center, eligible upper-division students may also register for this course.

This course focuses on an understanding of the structures and processes of the health system as an optimal construct and the health policies at the system's foundation from a global perspective. The complexity of health systems is demonstrated by comparative studies of national health systems ranging from low-to high-income nations. Both the Margie Lovett-Scott and Faith Prather "true access" and the World Health Organization "building blocks" models are compared and used to describe and assess the functioning of the national health systems targeted. A secondary emphasis will be placed on a retrospective analysis of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and a prospective view of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda as an aspirational framework for advocating community development and sustainability with implications for global health policy.

The initial offering of the course was very well received, based on student feedback, and the diversity, participation level, and creativity of the students were notable. This first offering demonstrated that students at various stages in their University education from different disciplines can work together and contribute to a mutually rewarding learning environment.

HONORING OUR OWN ACADEMIC HEROES!

We are quite proud of all our students for their achievements in the classroom, in the workplace, and in the community, and unfortunately too often these contributions go unrecognized. The following students have been recognized for their academic, research, leadership, and service contributions and as being notable representatives of their peers:

DEPARTMENTAL RECOGNITION:

Alex Dulin: HPM Outstanding Master's Student

Johanna Bellon: HPM Outstanding Doctoral Student

William Beutler: HPM Service Award

Deborah Backman, Evangeline Harpst, Kevin MacDonald: Delta Omega Membership

Ashley Oates: Delta Omega Essay Award

DEAN'S DAY POSTER PRESENTATION AWARDEES:

Sally Caine Leathers (MS): Master's Second Place Overall and HPM Master's Research Degree, "Obesity Uncovered: Diagnosis without Treatment in Plans Sold on the 2015 Health Insurance Marketplace"

Deborah Backman (MPH): HPM Master's Professional Degree, "Assessing Disparities in Obesity Prevention Practices in Pennsylvania Schools"

Tumader Khouja: HPM Doctoral Program, "The Effect of limiting Adult Dental Benefits in Pennsylvania Fee For Service Medicaid on Dental Extraction Rates"

HPMA UPDATE

The Health Policy and Management Association (HPMA) has seen vibrant and dedicated involvement of its members and officers in programming and outreach over the past academic year. This past fall, HPMA hosted a variety of social programming events, including a Pittsburgh Pirates outing, a softball game against members of the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, a wine and cheese event for the department with invited guests from the Department of Human Genetics, and a holiday party. Service projects included volunteering for Off the Floor Pittsburgh, the Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry, and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Pineapple Classic 5K. In the spring, HPMA held another wine and cheese event with more invited friends from Human Genetics and planned an end-of-year celebration. Service outings included more work with Off the Floor Pittsburgh and an upcoming event at the Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry in collaboration with Upsilon Phi Delta Honor Society. Finally, HPMA offered robust networking opportunities, including an alumni panel moderated by HPM Alumni Association President Mike Evans, and a population health panel including health care leaders from the community and moderated by A. Everette James of HPM.

As we say farewell and thank you to our outgoing officers Alex Dulin (president), Nikita Sharma (vice president), Deborah Backman (secretary), Bill Beutler (treasurer), Caitlin Colkitt (development chair), and Catherine Mehta (programming chair), we are pleased to announce our new slate of officers who took office in February. Evan Finkelstein (president), Andy Gaul (vice president), Jared Garfield (secretary), Taru Gupta (treasurer), Rachel Hummel (development chair), and Jamie Cable (programming chair) are looking forward to serving the HPM community through more collaborative events, service, and alumni engagement.

EXTENDED RESIDENCIES

The extended administrative residency matches first-year students competitively with host organizations willing to provide a supervised residency experience beginning in the student's second term on a part-time basis prior to the full-time summer term placement and continuing into the student's second and final academic year. Typically this provides the selected student with 750–1,000 hours of on-site practical experience.

ORGANIZATION	PRECEPTOR(S)	MHA STUDENT(S)	PROGRAM
Allegheny Health Network (AHN), Allegheny General Hospital (AGH)	Michael Harlovic	Matt Bauer	MHA
AHN Central Region	David Goldberg	Danielle Cerep	MHA
Highmark Inc.	Marylou Buyse	Taru Gupta	MPH
UPMC Insurance Services Division	Marion McGowan	Jenny Zank	MHA
UPMC Insurance Services Division	Helene Weinraub	Patsy Maxim	MHA
Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC operations	Lou Bavero	James Cable Marie Hackshaw	MHA MHA
UPMC PSD Department of Medicine	Annmarie Lyons	Sarah Miller	MHA

MHA RESIDENCIES, SUMMER 2016

ORGANIZATION	PRECEPTOR(S)	MHA STUDENT	PROGRAM
Allegheny Health Network Finance	Jeffrey Crudele	Mario Scarpinato	MHA
UPMC Anesthesiology & Surgery	Ed McQuade	Greg King	MHA
UPMC Community & Provider Services	Deborah Brodine Mary Ann Sander	Rachel Hummel	MHA
UPMC Urology	Margaret Ealy	Dante Bongiorno	MHA
UPMC Presbyterian/Shadyside	Tim Kagle	Patrick Lundquist	MHA
UPMC International	Juli Kundu	Mike Fetterolf	MHA
UPMC Mercy	Julie Hecker	Evan Finkelstein	MHA
UPMC Wolff Center	Katherine Brownlee Sue Martin	Alexi Jurewicz	MHA

JOINT MHA/MBA PROGRAM STATUS

The new joint MHA/MBA program has passed all levels of review within the University of Pittsburgh, and we are now recruiting for the 2016 fall term. Due to the timing of program approval so late in the recruiting cycle, our initial cohort will likely be quite small, consisting primarily of transfer students including those admitted into our traditional MHA and MBA programs for the 2016 fall term.

We have designed the joint MHA/MBA degree as a three-year, full-time, 78-credit curriculum which will allow the student to complete two separate management residencies in the intervening summer terms or, with the approval of the host health care organization, an extended residency bridging across the program may be an option. With the packaging of the curriculum across three years, the student will also have the opportunity to pursue a 15-credit certificate, often without exceeding normal credit limits per term. The joint degree provides an opportunity for students with special interest in finance to gain additional competency in this area.

Those interested in gaining further information about the joint MHA/MBA Program should contact Wes Rohrer at wmrn@pitt.edu, who will serve as codirector of the program along with Rabikar Chatterjee, associate dean for masters and executive programs, Katz Graduate School of Business.



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF HEALTHCARE EXECUTIVES HPM ALUMNI RECEPTION (CHICAGO)

The Department of Health Policy and Management (HPM) Alumni Association reception in Chicago, Ill., on March 15, 2016, can be considered a big success. With a turnout of alumni, students, and faculty that was one of the largest in years, there was much to celebrate. Mark Roberts, HPM department chair, updated the attendees regarding the progress of the joint MHA/MBA program and the successful efforts that have resulted in more top candidates being recruited thanks to additional scholarship support. Roberts also elaborated on the progress made toward improving the program for MHA, MPH, and PhD candidates. Lastly, congratulations were extended to Diane Peterson (HPM '75) whose husband, Larry Mathis, was inducted into the Health Care Hall of Fame.

Mike Evans (MPH '80), president, HPM Alumni Association, congratulated those students who participated in the University of Alabama at Birmingham Case Study Competition and recognized Mike Blackwood (MPH '80) for his efforts as past president. Also, we once again successfully kick off our annual fund drive to support vital student award funds. Of special note, this year's fall HPM Alumni Conference will feature the Dawn Gideon Lecture and Webinar in memory of Dawn Gideon (MHA '83), a very successful health care executive and entrepreneur. In closing, everyone was encouraged to keep up the support of the HPM program and to attend next year's reception.



SAVE THE DATE
THE DAWN GIDEON LECTURE AND WEBINAR

November 14, 2016, 12:15 p.m.

Pittsburgh Location

TBD

GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED PROGRAMS MAKE UP 52 PERCENT OF WHAT WE SPEND ON HEALTH CARE

In an article for *Forbes*, “Government-sponsored Programs Make Up 52% of What We Spend on Healthcare,” coauthors A. Everette James, director of the Health Policy Institute at the University of Pittsburgh, and Meredith Hughes, a Pitt JD/MPH student, discuss the significant and expanding role that public spending plays in the American health care system. One of the key goals of the article was to offer an alternative perspective on typical thinking about the division between public and private spending on health care. In addition to paying for health services through Medicare, Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and a host of other often overlooked programs, the federal government offers massive subsidies for the purchase of private insurance in the form of the employer-sponsored insurance (ESI) tax exclusion. At upwards of \$250 billion annually in foregone federal revenue, the ESI exclusion is the single largest subsidy in the U.S. tax code. The role of public spending in subsidizing the purchase of private insurance is only going to increase in coming years, as one of the key coverage expansion mechanisms in the Affordable Care Act utilizes subsidies to encourage the purchase of private insurance through state-based insurance marketplaces.

The article features several charts and graphs that illustrate current trends in national health care spending and detail some of the health programs offered by federal, state, and local governments. Government-sponsored programs provide either health care or health insurance to veterans, military families, federal employees, uninsured children, American Indians and Alaska Natives, refugees who resettle in the United States, individuals with substance abuse and mental health issues, and inmates in federal and state prisons. The federal government and states also invest billions in biomedical research, public health and prevention measures, and health care professional education.

JARLENSKI RECEIVES COMPETITIVE BIRCWH AWARD



Marian Jarlenski, PhD, received a competitive Building Interdisciplinary Research in Women’s Health (BIRCWH) award from the Magee-Womens Research Institute to investigate the impact of different health policy interventions to decrease substance use in pregnancy. An estimated 5 percent of U.S. women report illicit substance use in pregnancy, and 11 percent of U.S. women of childbearing age report

illicit substance use. States have taken various policy approaches in response to the problem of prenatal substance use. In 18 states, there are policies requiring mandatory reporting by health care workers of suspected instances of substance use by pregnant women (i.e., reporting policies). Separately or in addition to reporting policies, 19 states have created treatment policies specifically for substance use in pregnancy (i.e., treatment policies). Although state prenatal substance use reporting and treatment policies are intended to improve prenatal substance use treatment and infant health, there is a dearth of empirical evidence about the effects of such policies. Jarlenski’s research will address this gap in knowledge by evaluating how state prenatal substance use reporting and treatment policies have affected prenatal substance use reporting, access to treatment, and birth outcomes in the United States.

TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY STUDENT INVESTIGATES HEPATITIS C TREATMENT IN PRISONS



The Department of Health Policy and Management hosted Tianhua “Tiffany” He, a student from Tsinghua University in China, as part of an exchange program run through the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. She worked on a simulation study regarding the impact of screening and treating incarcerated individuals for hepatitis C. In the United States, incarcerated individuals experience a high incidence of hepatitis C transmitted through shared needles and form a large reservoir of hepatitis C-positive individuals when they reenter the community after leaving prison. He developed an agent-based simulation model that represented the incarcerated individuals in the United States and modeled the communities that these incarcerated individuals would rejoin when released. Her analysis, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, revealed that screening and treating incarcerated individuals for hepatitis C was generally cost-effective and that 90 percent of the benefit of screening and treating prisoners accrued to the communities through decreased transmission rates of hepatitis C.

Tianhua He with Kan, L., Roberts, M.S., Spaulding, A.C., Ayer, T., Grefenstette, J.J. and Chhatwal, J. “Prevention of Hepatitis C by Screening and Treatment in U.S. Prisons.” *Annals of Internal Medicine* 164(2): 84–92.

NEW GRANTS AWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT, NOVEMBER 2015–MARCH 2016

FACULTY MEMBER	FUNDING AGENCY	GRANT TITLE
Julie Donohue, PhD	National Network of Public Health Institutes	Impacts of Payment Reform on the Organization of Hospital Care of Persons with Mental Illness (subaccount from the University of Maryland)
	National Institutes of Health (NIH)	Impacts of Payment Reform on Racial Disparities in Hospital Psychiatric Care (subaccount from the University of Maryland)
Julia Driessen, PhD	NIH	Evaluation of the Clinical Impacts and Costs of e-Health in Rwanda Using Innovative Frameworks and Local Capacity Building
Marian Jarlenski, PhD, MPH	NIH	Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health Award-
Mark Roberts, MD, MPP	NIH	Financial Burden of <i>Cytomegalovirus</i> Mismatch (CMV Donor+/Recipient-) in Lung Transplant Recipients (subaccount from the School of Medicine)

SELECT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT, NOVEMBER 2015–MARCH 2016

Faculty, students, and research staff in the Department of Health Policy and Management continue to produce outstanding research that informs important current health care policy questions. Since the last newsletter, we have produced the following important publications in several policy areas.

- Jeremy D. Goldhaber-Fiebert with Jalal, H.J., "Some Health States Are Better than Others: Using Health State Rank Order to Improve Probabilistic Analyses," *Medical Decision Making*, 1–14, 2015.
- Hawre Jalal with Goldhaber-Fiebert, J.D., and Kuntz, K.M., "Computing Expected Value of Partial Sample Information from Probabilistic Sensitivity Analysis Using Linear Regression Metamodeling," *Medical Decision Making*, 35(5): 584–95, 2015.
- Marian Jarlenski with Baik, S.H., and Zhang, Y., "Trends in Use of Medications for Smoking Cessation in Medicare, 2007–2012," *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, in press.
- G. A. Huber with Roberts, C.A., and James III, A.E., "The Converging Public Health Responsibilities of Nonprofit Hospitals and Government Hospitals, Government and Public Health," *Journal of Civil and Legal Sciences*, in press.
- Everette James with Hughes, M., "Government-sponsored Programs Make Up 52% of What We Spend on Healthcare," *Forbes*, July 29, 2015.
- Jason B. Colditz with Ton, J.N., James III, A.E., and Primack, B.A., "Toward Effective Water Pipe Tobacco Control Policy in the United States: Synthesis of Federal, State, and Local Policy Texts," *American Journal of Health Promotion*, in press.
- Jason B. Colditz with Ton, J., James III, A.E., and Primack, B.A., "World Vaping Day: Contextualizing Vaping Culture in Online Social Media," *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, in press.
- Julia Driessen with Bellon, J., Stevans, J.M., Forsythe, R., Reynolds, B.R., and James III, A.E., "Perceived Performance and Impact of an Interprofessional Team in a Trauma Clinic Setting," *Journal of Interprofessional Care*, in press.
- Zan M. Dodson with Dempewolf, J., and Silva, J.A., "Does Prolonged Illness Contribute to Adaptive Land Use Practices among Subsistence Agricultural Households in Rural Mozambique?" *Applied Geography*, 67: 109–18, 2016.
- Tianhua He with Kan, L., Roberts, M.S., Spaulding, A.C., Ayer, T., Grefenstette, J.J., and Chhatwal, J., "Prevention of Hepatitis C by Screening and Treatment in U.S. Prisons," *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 164(2): 84–92, 2016.
- Jagpreet Chhatwal with Wang, X., Ayer, T., Kabiri, M., Chung, R.T., Hur, C., Donohue, J.M., Roberts, M.S., and Kanwal, F., "Hepatitis C Disease Burden in the United States in the Era of Oral Direct-acting Antivirals," *Hepatology*, in press.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



PHD GRADUATE ANA PROGOVAC

Ana Progovac received her PhD in health services research and policy from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health in spring of 2015 (Mentor Julie Donohue, PhD) and is currently a National Institute of Mental Health Postdoctoral research fellow at Harvard Medical School's Department of Health Care Policy. Her placement is at the Health Equity Research Lab at Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) under the mentorship of Benjamin L. Cook. Currently, her research focuses on mental health and health care disparities as well as interventions and policies to reduce these disparities. She has

been involved in the evaluation of a mental health home at CHA; analyses of the influence of parents' education and socioeconomic status on childhood mental health impairment, and strategies to evaluate a community-based collaborative initiative to integrate local juvenile justice, school, and mental health service providers in order to reduce juvenile offense and recidivism rates for low-income youth across Cambridge, Mass. She credits Donohue and her other faculty mentors at Pitt with helping her hone her academic writing skills, which have proven to be very valuable in her daily work on papers, projects, and grants.



LETTER FROM MIKE EVANS

Dear Fellow Alumni,

In early February, an e-mail and calendar of activities were distributed to all Department of Health Policy and Management (HPM) alumni describing the work of our alumni association to inform and engage you with regard to our progress in supporting desire to attain a more prominent national presence. With new officers in

place (Amy Richards (MHA '02), vice president; Natalie Bulger (MHA '12), secretary; Kyle Bird ((MHA '10), treasurer; Mike Blackwood (MPH '80), past president; Alex Dulin, HPM student association president), the alumni association is now poised to play a more significant role in advancing the goals of HPM's programs. Specifically, efforts are underway to finalize our strategic plan and bylaws, and when completed, they will be posted to our Web site, publichealth.pitt.edu/health-policy-and-management/alumni. Plans also are developing for our second annual educational event and webinar, to be held in Pittsburgh next fall. In addition to our gathering in Chicago at the ACHE Congress on Administration, this will serve as our second major annual rallying event.

At our meeting during the ACHE Congress in Chicago, Ill., on March 15, we successfully kicked off our annual fund drive to support vital student award funds. In addition to celebrating all that's good about our program, supporting and contributing to the annual fund drive will become a traditional activity at this event. To continue to attract the best students possible, we need your support and financial assistance.

For further information on how to help, please contact Kristen de Paor, director of development for the Graduate School of Public Health, at kwd128@pitt.edu.

During our gathering, congratulations were extended to Diane Peterson (MPH '75), whose husband, Larry Mathis, was inducted into the Health Care Hall of Fame. Recognition was given to Mark Sevco (MHA '91), president, UPMC East and UPMC McKeesport, as the program's current executive in residence and to students Caroline Evans, Bill Beutler, Caitlin Colkitt, and Evan Finkelstein for their participation in the University of Alabama at Birmingham case study competition. Special recognition was extended to Blackwood (MPH '80), past president, for his tireless efforts over many years to keep our association relevant to HPM's continuous improvement. His many contributions are greatly appreciated!

Ongoing communication with you from our association and HPM leadership will be central to our efforts to engage you in support of the program, its faculty and students in particular. Reaching the next level of excellence will require your continued assistance and cooperation. Thank you.

Mike Evans, (MPH '80)
President, HPM Alumni Association

HPM STUDENTS VOLUNTEER



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