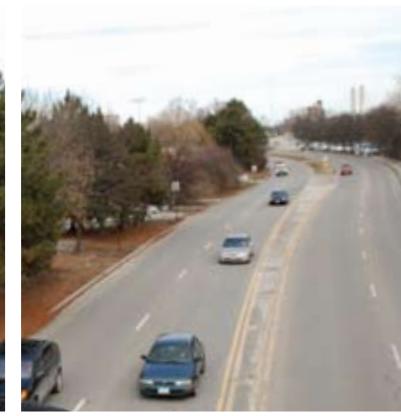


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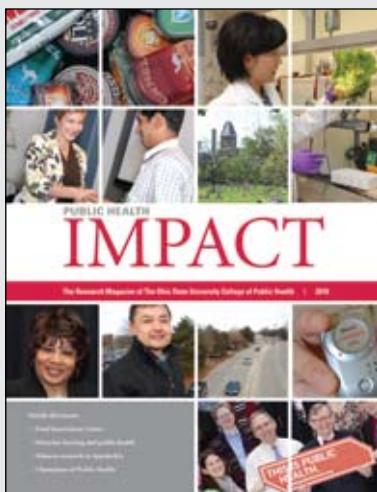
The Research Magazine of The Ohio State University College of Public Health | 2010



Inside this issue:

- Food Innovation Center
- Stimulus funding and public health
- Tobacco research in Appalachia
- Champions of Public Health





Dean's Message

Taking on tough problems



Public health doesn't shy away from tough challenges. As a discipline, we've taken on Big Tobacco, HIV/AIDS, and automotive safety. You can see from this magazine that our faculty take that legacy seriously. We're still embracing seemingly impossible tasks. Yet public health offers the best hope for solving many of these problems.

Our faculty work to eliminate food-borne illnesses, prevent childhood obesity and combat smokeless tobacco in Appalachian Ohio.

We also engage the next generation of public health leaders, our students. Learning about all they do to keep us healthy makes me optimistic for our future.

We don't think small when it comes to improving people's lives. I hope you are equally inspired as you read this magazine. Surely you know public health champions who improve the health of Ohioans. Use the form on page 11 to nominate someone for our 2010 Champion of Public Health awards. I am certain your public health champion doesn't shy away from tough challenges either.

Dean Stanley Lemeshow

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Food for Thought

College of Public Health researchers lend expertise to new innovation center

By Wendy Pramik
CPH Communications

The College of Public Health is one of a dozen academic entities at Ohio State collaborating to address global issues in food supply, food policy, and nutrition and health.

The Food Innovation Center: Foods for Global Security, Safety and Health Promotion will receive \$3.75 million over the next five years from the university and involve more than 80 faculty members, including three members of the College of Public Health's Division of Environmental Health Sciences.

Professor Christopher Weghorst and Assistant Professors Jiyoung Lee and Jianrong Li will join the project.

"I look forward to broadening innovative research on foods that positively impact public health," said Weghorst, whose research focuses on food-based cancer prevention and includes turning everyday foods such as raspberries and strawberries into cancer-fighting tools.

The Food Innovation Center will focus on four themes: designing foods for health, ensuring food safety, advancing biomedical nutrition in disease prevention and health promotion, and examining global food strategy and policy.

Jiyoung Lee and Jianrong Li, who have joint appointments with the Department of Food Science and Technology, will concentrate their research on food-borne pathogens.

"Viruses have become more important in food safety and public health, accounting for more than 70 percent of food-borne illness," Li said. "The center will provide an excellent platform to develop novel strategies to inactivate and eliminate food-borne viruses with the ultimate goal of improving food safety and public health."

Li's projects include examining how viruses attach themselves to and survive on fruits and vegetables, as well as developing sanitation processes that can inactivate the viruses. Li also is interested in developing novel vaccines against food-borne viruses.

"Fresh produce is a vital food source for much of the world's



Assistant Professor Lee is researching ways to efficiently disinfect fresh produce.

population, but it's also a vector for pathogens since it's not typically cooked," said Jiyoung Lee, who's also researching ways to efficiently disinfect fresh produce.

Lee says that vegetables, such as lettuce, can easily become contaminated by improperly treated manure that's used to fertilize plants. Lee is studying the effectiveness of an ozone-and-water mixture to clean vegetables, as opposed to typically-used chlorine. The ozone wash is proving to be effective in ridding produce of bacteria and other microbial pathogens while at the same time being less toxic to the environment than chlorine.

Lee also is researching microorganisms that can contaminate raw fish such as salmon and tuna, as well as those that contaminate fresh herbs and edible flowers.

"As the use of fresh herbs and edible flowers as ready-to-eat foods grows, so does the concern over their ability to harbor microbial pathogens with the potential to cause food-borne illness," Lee said.

Funded by the Offices of Academic Affairs and Research, the center will receive \$750,000 a year for five-years.

The project will be directed by Ken Lee, professor of food science and technology.

Besides the College of Public Health, other university areas involved in the Food Innovation Center are the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center - Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute; the College of Biological Sciences; the College of Education and Human Ecology; the College of Engineering; the Fisher College of Business; the John Glenn School of Public Affairs; the Michael E. Moritz College of Law; the College of Medicine; the College of Optometry; the College of Pharmacy; and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Serving the Underserved

Tobacco researchers address needs of vulnerable populations

By Wendy Pramik
CPH Communications



Professor Mary Ellen Chewers is studying tobacco marketing strategies in Ohio's Appalachian region.

College of Public Health Professor Mary Ellen Chewers sits in a student lounge with a shopping bag full of smokeless-tobacco products. It includes cans of snuff and a few innovative forms of the leaf, such as lozenges and tooth picks. They all leave a bad taste in Chewers' mouth.

"Tobacco use remains a significant public-health problem, and is increasingly prevalent among vulnerable populations," said Chewers, a professor in the Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion.

Chewers and a research team that includes Amy Ferketich, Liz Klein, Malaika Wilson, and Loren Kenda have been returning weekly to Ohio's Appalachian region to examine tobacco marketing strategies in the area. The researchers will have worked with 160 volunteers before their two-year investigation funded by the National Cancer Institute ends in June 2010.

Chewers asks the volunteers if they're familiar with the products that she totes along. Some volunteers also will be asked to keep a travel diary and to wear a GPS device, which looks like a mini cell phone, for two days to measure their exposure to tobacco advertising and anti-smoking messaging.

"These findings may assist in predicting future tobacco-industry marketing strategies among this vulnerable group," Chewers said.

Chewers is among several College of Public Health researchers who want to fully understand tobacco use and cessation methods among underserved populations, including those in Ohio's Appalachia. Here, smoking rates and poverty are high and education levels are low. It's also where many families dedicate their lives and land to tobacco as a cash crop.

Chewers is spearheading several studies in Appalachia, including one on marketing approaches and another on cessation intervention for vulnerable groups. She has been studying health issues in the area for more than a decade.

Underserved populations, which also include African



A sampling of available smokeless-tobacco products

Americans, Hispanics, low-income Chinese, prisoners and HIV-infected populations, often have poor access to health care and are at greater risk of becoming tobacco users. Research shows that tobacco use among their members often is higher than normal.

Meanwhile, people in these underserved groups also often have less access to prevention and treatment, resulting in a disproportionate occurrence of tobacco-related death and disease. Additionally, people with lower incomes may not have adequate health-insurance coverage or no coverage of preventive care, such as smoking cessation or PAP smears.

A main focus of study remains Ohio's Appalachian population. Smoking rates here are 30 percent higher for women, making them more susceptible to tobacco-attributed diseases, such as lung cancer and cervical cancer. Rates of cervical cancer are 24 percent higher among Appalachian women than other U.S. women.

In another project, principal investigator Wewers is working with co-investigators and colleagues David Murray, professor and chair of the Division of Epidemiology; Amy Ferketich, associate professor in Epidemiology; and Mei-Po Kwan, professor in the Department of Geography. Wewers and Ferketich study tobacco dependence and treatment in underserved populations. Murray will construct the specific features of the group randomized trial design, and Kwan will participate in the geographical patterning aspects of tobacco use behaviors.

"In general, many smokers in the U.S. are underserved individuals," Ferketich said. "If you look at those who still

smoke in America, you'll see that these individuals tend to come from low-socioeconomic groups."

Ferketich, who has studied smoking among prisoners, Chinese-American immigrants in New York's Chinatown and Hispanics in Columbus, is principal investigator of a study that's testing the feasibility of a smoking-cessation intervention targeted to smokers enrolled in Medicaid Managed Programs in Ohio's Appalachia. The intervention would be delivered by the patients' doctors.

"The smoking prevalence is 48 percent among Medicaid enrollees in Appalachia, which is more than twice as high as the state estimate," said Ferketich of the study that's funded by the National Cancer Institute. "This research will provide important information to assist in the reduction of smoking rates."

Another vulnerable population under study is people infected with HIV. They're doubly likely to smoke than the general population, Wewers said. The study, funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, seeks to develop and evaluate a specialized smoking cessation intervention for the treatment of nicotine dependence among this population, as well as examine the effects of smoking cessation on their lung function.

"Persons infected with HIV appear to be especially susceptible to the adverse effects of cigarette smoking," Wewers said. "These individuals are at an increased risk of developing accelerated emphysema, and the risk appears to be related to an increased susceptibility to cigarette smoke."



Researchers use a GPS tracking device to monitor tobacco marketing.

Stimulating Research

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds variety of research at College of Public Health

By Wendy Pramik
CPH Communications



Qinghua Sun



Paula Song

The economic stimulus act of 2009, designed to jumpstart the nation's economy, is impacting research at Ohio State, and a number of College of Public Health projects have benefitted.

Research topics gaining funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act range from preventing lung tumors, to enhancing colorectal cancer screening, to understanding a link between air pollution and obesity. The funds are advancing public-health research and providing jobs at Ohio State.

Qinghua Sun, assistant professor in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences, is leading the study on the relationship between particulate air pollution and obesity. The study, called "Obesity development: Role of air pollution and high-fat diet," is sponsored by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and will receive \$412,500 in stimulus funding for a two-year period ending in July 2011.

The funding fully supports two postdoctoral positions and 50 percent of a research assistant, who are working on the project.

Sun says that because of an increase in obesity rates, studies have shown that life expectancy may start to decrease in developed countries for the first time in recent history.

"Air pollution and obesity each causes significant public-health burdens," Sun said. "This study will examine whether exposure to particulate air pollution, combined with a high-fat diet, will act together to increase obesity in animal models."

Another study that's benefitting from the funds is Assistant Professor Paula Song's "Implementing systemic interventions to close the discovery-delivery gap." The goal of the research is to develop a business case for provider participation in Community Clinical Oncology Programs (CCOP). Song, of the Division of Health Services Management and Policy, is the project's principal investigator. Associate Professor Ann McAlearney is the co-investigator.

The final product will be a spreadsheet-based model to help organizations identify revenues and costs involved in the CCOP

program, a network for conducting cancer prevention and treatment clinical trials by community medical practitioners. The CCOP allows community-based physicians to participate in cutting-edge oncology research and increase patients' access to clinical trials outside the traditional academic medical center setting.

The project, which is sponsored by the University of North Carolina, has received \$204,752 in stimulus funding which is renewable for two years. The research team was able to use the funding to hire a graduate research associate who will coordinate the interviews and perform data management and analysis.

Below is a sample of research projects in the College of Public Health that have been funded to date through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

**Jacson, Rebecca D. (PI), Paskett, Electra D. (Co-I),
Wewers, Mary E. (Co-I),** "CTSA: Administrative Supplement-Collaborative Community Engagement Research," National Center for Research Sources, \$132,374, (2009-2011)

Katz, Mira L., "Patient activation to increase colon cancer screening," National Cancer Institute, \$107,339, (2009-2011)

McAlearney, Ann S., "Implementing cancer treatment measuring and reporting in office and hospital practice," Mount Sinai School of Medicine, \$36,432, (2009-2010)

Paskett, Electra D., "Enhancing colorectal cancer screening in primary care," National Cancer Institute, \$54,840, (2009-2010)

Song, Paula H. (PI), McAlearney, Ann S. (Co-I), "Implementing systemic interventions to close the discovery-delivery gap," University of North Carolina, \$204,752, (2009-2011)

Faculty News



Janet de Moor



Sarah Anderson



Armando Hoet

De Moor's study links finances, depression in stage zero breast cancer diagnosis

Janet de Moor, assistant professor in the Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion, is the lead author of a study that suggests women who have fewer financial resources may need added social and psychological support to cope with the fear, anxiety and depression that can accompany a diagnosis of an early stage of breast cancer.

Ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), a type of stage-zero breast cancer, is the most common form of non-invasive breast cancer, comprising one of every five new breast cancer cases. Non-invasive breast cancer means that it hasn't spread out of the milk duct to invade other parts of the breast.

"Women with less financial support are more vulnerable to escalating anxiety and depression following a diagnosis because they have competing stressors," de Moor said. "The women not only have to deal with health problems, but also have to worry about how to pay for medical bills and cover time off work."

The findings are published online in the journal *Cancer*. De Moor collaborated with researchers at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, where the study was conducted.

Research reveals three home routines that lower risk of childhood obesity

Sarah Anderson, assistant professor in the Division of Epidemiology, is the lead author of a new national study that suggests preschool-aged children are likely to have a lower risk for obesity if they regularly engage in one or more of three specific household routines: eating dinner as a family, getting adequate sleep and limiting weekday television viewing time.

In a large representative sample of the U.S. population, the study showed that 4-year-olds living in homes with all three routines had an almost 40 percent lower prevalence of obesity than did children living in homes that practiced none of these routines.

"The routines were protective even among groups that typically have a high risk for obesity. This is important because it suggests that there's a potential for these routines to be useful targets for obesity prevention in all children," Anderson said.

The study appears online and in the March issue of the journal *Pediatrics*. The study was funded by the Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service.

Toxicology group honors Sun with awards for Young Investigator, Paper of the Year

In February, the Society of Toxicology's Inhalation and Respiratory Specialty Section (IRSS) selected Qinghua Sun, assistant professor in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences, for its IRSS Young Investigator Award.

The Young Investigator Award is given to a scientist who has made significant contributions to the field of inhalation or respiratory toxicology. Sun recently published research results that are the first to demonstrate that the link between diesel fume exposure and cancer lies in the ability of diesel exhaust to induce the growth of new blood vessels that serve as a food supply for solid tumors.

The society's specialty section also named Sun the winner of the IRSS Paper of the Year Award for his publication "Ambient Air Pollution Exaggerates Adipose Inflammation and Insulin Resistance in a Mouse Model of Diet Induced Obesity" that appeared in the journal *Circulation* in Feb. 2009.

"This is a rare double win," said Jim Wagner, vice president elect of IRSS.

The awards were presented to Sun at the Society of Toxicology's annual meeting in March in Salt Lake City.

Hoet, students travel to Uruguay for 'Farm to Table Study Program'

Armando Hoet, clinical assistant professor in the Division

Faculty News



Mary Ellen Wewers



Christopher Weghorst



Tim Buckley

of Epidemiology, and two veterinary public health (VPH) students traveled to Uruguay in late October to partake in the “Farm to Table Study Program.”

Current MPH-VPH student Annemarie Hoffman and MPH-VPH/PhD alumnus Narry Tiao joined Hoet, and a host of others, to explore a dozen beef-cattle operations and a specialty cheese processing plant located throughout the South-American country.

The program, which teaches students about the global integration of food systems, is a collaboration among Ohio State, the University of Minnesota, the Universidad de la Republica in Uruguay, and the Uruguay Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture, and Fishery. It will be offered again in October 2010.

Wewers recognized as ‘Memorable Educator’

Mary Ellen Wewers, professor in the Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion, was named a 2009 Memorable Educator in the December issue of Ohio Magazine.

Wewers is one of 88 educators featured in the Excellence in Education section, which recognized outstanding college and university teachers from a wide range of academic backgrounds.

Wewers is noted for her research on tobacco cessation in underserved populations, as well as for being named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and for receiving the 2008 Hero of Hope Award from the American Cancer Society.

Weghorst promoted to professor

In October 2009, Christopher Weghorst was promoted to professor in the college’s Division of Environmental Health Sciences.

Weghorst began his career at Ohio State in 1994 as an assistant professor in the then-School of Public Health and

as an associate member of the Comprehensive Cancer Center. His novel approaches in food-based prevention research have turned everyday foods such as raspberries and strawberries into cancer-fighting tools.

“This translational research is of enormous importance to our college, the cancer center and Ohio State,” said Dean Stanley Lemeshow. Chris is a valued and indispensable component of the Environmental Health Sciences division in our college.”

Buckley to serve on National Academies Panel

Tim Buckley, associate professor and chair of the Division of Environmental Health Sciences, has been tapped by the Academies’ National Research Council’s Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology as one of 17 experts to serve on an ad hoc interdisciplinary panel to examine “Human and Environmental Exposure Science in the 21st Century.”

The panel is slated to have its first meeting May 18-19. The report will be completed over 30 months. The project is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

The panel will consider strategic opportunities for developing exposure science to meet the world’s 21 century challenges.

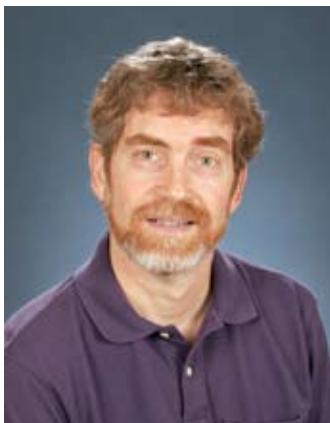
Liang to participate in study that addresses China’s environmental health status

Song Liang, assistant professor in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences, was invited by the China Medical Board to join a group of scientists from the U.S. and China to participate in a study that reviews China’s environmental health status. The study is the first of its kind to review China’s environmental health challenges and successes.

“Despite its remarkable growing economy which has pulled hundreds of millions of people out of poverty, China is



Song Liang



David Murray



Soledad Fernandez

struggling with some of the most serious environmental health problems on the planet," Song said. "More than 300 million people in rural China don't have access to safe drinking water and appropriate sanitation, making these people vulnerable to infections and illness."

Song's invitation came after a paper to which he contributed, titled "Environmental health in China: progress towards clean air and safe water," was published in *The Lancet* on March 27. Song worked on a section that addressed water pollution and sanitation and its impact on public health.

Murray to be keynote speaker at NHLBI event

David Murray, professor and chair of the Division of Epidemiology, will present a keynote address at the Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in High-Risk Rural Communities meeting, in June 2010 at the National Institutes of Health campus in Bethesda, Md.

The meeting, sponsored by the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), will make recommendations for future research that will focus on family and community-based interventions to reduce obesity, hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular disease in rural areas of the United States.

Murray was invited to speak on "Research Design Considerations for Research in Rural Communities" based on his work on the design and analysis of community-based interventions.

Fernandez lends expertise to cancer study

Soledad Fernandez, research assistant professor in the Division of Biostatistics, worked on a study that shows mutations in one gene may cause many cancers. The study examined mutations in a gene called PTEN. People who inherit a mutated copy of this gene have Cowden syndrome, a condition that carries a high risk of cancer in a number of organs, including the breast, thyroid and ovary. In addition,

PTEN is frequently mutated in normal body cells leading to prostate, lung and pancreatic cancers.

The findings, published in the March 16 issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, suggest that testing for specific PTEN mutations might predict the kind and severity of cancer that will develop in people with the syndrome.

The research is being conducted at the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center and is funded by the National Cancer Institute, American Cancer Society and the Susan Komen Foundation. Fernandez serves as the biostatistics core leader of the project.

"The goal is to understand the cell changes that occur in the tumor microenvironment and how these affect tumor development and growth," Fernandez said. "Knowing this, clinicians may be able to use drugs more effectively resulting in better prognosis for cancer patients."

Liang awarded Gateway Research Seed Grant

Song Liang, assistant professor in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences, received a \$10,000 Gateway Research Seed Grant from the Ohio State Office of International Affairs for his project titled "Environmental Risk Transition in Rural China: Development, Water, and Public Health."

The seed grants are awarded to Ohio State researchers who are collaborating with partners in China, India or Brazil on environmental topics such as food safety, urban development and energy conservation.

Liang's funds will support a research policy symposium addressing water pollution and public health impacts in rural China that will include members of the Ohio State faculty and researchers from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China. The symposium will be held in Beijing in fall 2010.



Student News



Doctoral student Jenifer Klima helps patients understand the informed consent process.

Student researches genetics and consent

Jennifer Klima, a doctoral student in the Division of Epidemiology, received a grant from the Graduate School's Alumni Grants for Graduate Research and Scholarship fund for a project titled "Genetic Knowledge, Attitudes, and Informed Consent Understanding: A Study of Parents of Pediatric Patients with Left Ventricular Outflow Tract (LVOT) Obstructions."

Klima, who received an MPH from Ohio State in 2004, currently works as a project team leader at the Center for Innovation in Pediatric Practice at the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

"These families are asked to enroll in genetic research to study the genetics of these heart defects," Klima said. "I want to know how well they understand the informed-consent process, how much they know about genes and heredity, and how they feel about the predictive genetic testing."

Her academic advisor is Associate Professor Amy Ferketich.

MHA students earn award at Case Competition

A team of College of Public Health graduate students outperformed 26 other college teams to win the award for "Most Professionalism" at the national Case Competition in Birmingham, Ala., in February.

The team included Master of Health Administration students Kelli Clifton, Aaron Fields and Amelia Brown.

"This honor demonstrates how well our students are prepared to deal with real-world health care management challenges as well as their strength in the areas of communication and professionalism," said Sharon Schweikhart, associate professor and director of the College of Public Health's MHA program.

The Case Competition, sponsored by the University of

Alabama Health System, is open to students from schools accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education.

Teams convened in Birmingham to make oral presentations and field questions from a panel of nationally recognized health administration professionals and hospital CEOs.

The Ohio State team was coached by Stephen F. Loeks, professor emeritus in the Division of Health Services Management and Policy and Julie Robbins, a PhD candidate.

Student presents on incentives, response rates

Sherry Liu, a PhD student in the Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion, presented a poster titled "Comparing Incentives to Increase Response Rates among African Americans in the Ohio Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System" at the 15th Annual Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Conference in December in Tampa.

Liu worked on the project while interning at the Center for Public Health Statistics and Information at the Ohio Department of Health.

"Maternal and child health is my primary research interest," Liu said. "This conference is an exciting opportunity for me to learn about current research in the field and also become a part of a professional and academic community."

Janet de Moor, assistant professor in the Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion is Liu's academic advisor.

Student project pilots biosolids protocol

Paul Rosile, a PhD student in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences, presented a research project at the fifth annual Canadian Residual and Biosolids Conference sponsored by the Water Environment Association of Ontario in September in Niagara Falls.

Rosile's presentation, titled "Pilot Testing: Epidemiologic Surveillance and Investigation of Illness Reported by Neighbors

of Biosolids Land Application and other Soils Amendments," addresses the use of sewage sludge (or biosolids) as fertilizer on farm fields and its effects on public health. The project will test a five-step investigation protocol that includes the administration of questionnaires to the people who work with the biosolids as well as those who live near farms where it's been applied and have complained of health problems.

"The Canadian government is interested in the surveillance and investigation tool we're pilot-testing for public health and environmental agencies to use across the country," Rosile said.

EHS faculty Tim Buckley, Song Liang and Jay Wilkins are contributing to this research.



Jeff McCollum

McCollum joins CDC Service

Second-year MPH student Jeff McCollum was accepted into the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Epidemic Intelligence Service program.

The two-year post-graduate program is for health professionals interested in the practice of epidemiology. Each year since 1951, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention selects 80 representatives from among the nation's top medical doctors, researchers and scientists to participate in the program and play a major role in the implementation of the association's mission of preventing disease and injury and promoting healthy lifestyles.

McCollum, who is specializing in epidemiology and veterinary public health, plans to begin the program in July.

Amy Ferketich, associate professor in the Division of Epidemiology, is McCollum's academic advisor, and Armando Hoet, clinical assistant professor in Epidemiology, is his advisor in veterinary public health.

Undergrad studies contamination from septic tanks

Vanessa Burrowes, an undergraduate honors biology student who conducts research at the College of Public Health, received the Dean's Undergraduate Research Fund Award for studying microbial contamination from failed septic tank systems and its impact on water safety.

Burrowes' research advisor is Jiyoung Lee, assistant professor in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences.

"This experience gave me insight into the sort of lab work I'll be doing in the future," Burrowes said. "I learned how to test for water safety and how to apply advanced statistical analysis to my data."



Prabasaj Paul receives Mary Plummer Scholarship from Alumni Society President Denise Kissell.

Plummer Scholarship awarded to Prabasaj Paul

The College of Public Health Alumni Society awarded the 2009 Mary Plummer Memorial Scholarship to Prabasaj Paul, an MPH student specializing in epidemiology.

"It's an honor to be recognized, especially while making a midlife career shift from theoretical physicist to epidemiologist," Paul said. "It's certainly taken the edge off the diffidence that comes with such a leap into the unknown."

The award, which was presented at the alumni society's annual fall meeting, honors Plummer, a respected epidemiologist who passed away in 1998. Each year the award is given to an incoming epidemiology student.

Undergrad receives Academic Enrichment Grant

Silis Jiang, an undergraduate microbiology and psychology student who works in Associate Professors Qinghua Sun's lab, was recently awarded the Academic Enrichment Grant from Undergraduate Student Government. The \$500 grant covered part of Jiang's expenses to attend the Society of Toxicology Conference in Salt Lake City, where he presented his project "Particulate Air Pollution on Childhood Obesity."

"This application review was incredibly competitive," said Ashley Sinram, chief of staff of the Undergraduate Student Government. "Silis should feel truly proud of himself for receiving this grant."

MPH student chosen as poster finalist

Eunyoung (Grace) Park, a first-year MPH student in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences, was selected as a finalist for a poster competition presented by the Institute for Food Technologists (IFT).

Park will present her project "Rapid detection of spore contamination in water, beverage, and powder by ATP luminescence and real-time PCR" in the Biotechnology Division at the IFT Annual Meeting in Chicago, July 17-20. Park's academic advisor is Assistant Professor Jiyoung Lee.



2009 award winners Cheryl Boyce, doctors Robert Finch and Shelley Blackburn of Grant Family Medicine Physicians and Lois Hall with Dean Stanley Lemeshow

Public health champions celebrated

The College of Public Health held its fifth annual Champions of Public Health Awards reception on Oct. 8 at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center on the Ohio State campus.

The awards recognize the impact that individuals and groups have made on the health of Ohioans. The 2009 award winners were Cheryl Boyce, executive director, Ohio Commission on Minority Health, in the Public Health Practitioner category; Lois Hall, executive director, Ohio Public Health Association, in the Public Health Community Leader category; and Grant Family Medicine Physicians, in the Public Health Organization category.

Cheryl Boyce

Although Cheryl Boyce has dedicated her career to the notion of better health for all, she's specifically known for her leadership in the area of minority health. When the Ohio Commission on Minority Health was created in 1987, Boyce was appointed by then-Governor Richard Celeste as its first executive director, a position which she still holds. The commission focuses on improving the health status of African Americans, Latinos/Hispanics, Asians and Native American Indians. Its programs encourage behavior change by tapping into the attitudes, values and beliefs of the target populations.

Lois Hall

Lois Hall worked for 30 years at the Ohio Department of Health, most recently as its cancer program coordinator. Her previous assignments included working in the areas of Reye's Syndrome, Legionnaire's Disease, Kawasaki Disease, and AIDS.

She also served as a member of the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church's AIDS Ministries Committee and as a supporter of a prison ministry program for the loved ones of incarcerated men at the Marion Correctional Institute.

Since retiring from ODH, Hall continues to advocate for public health as director of the Ohio Public Health Association and is a certified grief recovery specialist.

Grant Family Medicine Physicians

The Grant Family Medicine Physicians volunteer their time and expertise to make a difference in public health in central Ohio. The physicians work to reduce infant mortality rates and deliver health care to underserved populations via various mobile health units, which offer free and urgent service. They also offer free sports physicals, allowing students in the Columbus City Schools system the ability to participate in sports programs. Through these clinics, more than 400 students were identified with undiagnosed medical conditions, some of which were life-threatening.

The College is currently accepting nominations for the 2010 Champions of Public Health Awards. The deadline for submission is June 30, 2010. The awards presentation will be Oct. 21, 2010.

2010 Champions of Public Health Awards

Nomination Form

Sponsored by The Ohio State University College of Public Health

We invite you to identify and nominate worthy individuals who, through their professional achievements, volunteer service or civic involvement, personify the mission of the College of Public Health to advance knowledge and improve lives.

- Nominees must be an individual or organization who has made a significant contribution to the health of Ohioans.
- Individuals may be nominated posthumously, but the committee prefers nominees who are living at the time of nomination.
- For the community leader category, the college encourages nominations of volunteers as well as public health professionals.
- Individuals may come from all fields of public health.
- Submit this nomination form and a one-page nominating

statement.

- You may include up to two letters of support. Letters of support are limited to one 8 ½" x 11" page each, single-spaced.

Please attach your nomination to this form and mail to:
Champions of Public Health Awards Committee
OSU College of Public Health
B107 Starling Loving Hall
320 W. 10th Ave.
Columbus OH 43210

All nominations packets must be postmarked no later than June 30. Additional forms are available online at <http://cph.osu.edu> or by emailing comalley@cph.osu.edu.

I nominate _____
(full name)

for the Champions of Public Health Award in the category _____
(community leader, public health practitioner, or organization)

Nominee

street address

city/state/zip

phone number

Nominator

your name

street address

city/state/zip

phone number

email address

2009 Publications

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Grants and Contracts

- ANDERSON, SARAH**, "Childhood overweight and obesity: Prospective analyses of child behavior problems as a risk factor for obesity," American Heart Association - Great Rivers Affiliate, \$121,000 (2008-2010)
- BISESI, MICHAEL**, "Buckeye Bluegrass Regional Leadership Academy," Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, \$177,912 (2007-2010)
- BISESI, MICHAEL**, "Center for public health preparedness," Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, \$5,280,115 (2004-2010)
- BISESI, MICHAEL**, "The Ohio State University public health traineeship," Health Resources & Services Administration, \$11,723 (2009-2012)
- BISESI, MICHAEL**, "(ARRA) Public health traineeship program," Health Resources & Services Administration, \$24,362 (2009-2012)
- BUCKLEY, TIMOTHY**, "Case study environmental monitoring in support of the BREJT (Phase III - revise and finalize toolkit)," Morgan State University (Prime: US Department of Transportation), \$4,000 (2009-2010)
- BUCKLEY, TIMOTHY**, "Protecting public health at Ohio inland beaches: Development of water quality indicators for recreational microbial exposure," Ohio Water Development Authority, \$171,259 (2008-2010)
- BUCKLEY, TIMOTHY**, "Childhood Asthma and the School Environment in Ohio (CASE-Ohio)," Ohio Department of Health from the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority, \$187,903 (2010-2011)
- DEMBE, ALLARD**, "Developing a strategy for optimal utilization of pharmacologic treatment for pain management of injured workers in the state of Ohio," Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation, \$54,797 (2009-2010)
- FERKETICH, AMY**, "Examining the effect of a provider-delivered intervention among Medicaid smokers," National Cancer Institute, \$176,720 (2009-2011)
- KATZ, MIRA**, "(ARRA) Patient activation to increase colon cancer screening," National Cancer Institute, \$107,339 (2009-2011)
- KATZ, MIRA**, "Patient activation to increase colon cancer screening," National Cancer Institute, \$675,540 (2005-2010)
- LEE, JIYOUNG**, "Rapid detection of viable *B. fragilis* in Lake Erie," Ohio Lake Erie Erie Protection Fund, \$14,997 (2009-2010)
- LIANG, SONG**, "Critical evaluation of a passive epidemiological surveillance and investigation protocol of illnesses reported by neighbors of land application sites of biosolids and other soil amendments," Franklin Co Board of Health (Prime: Water Environment Research Foundation), \$124,129 (2009-2010)
- LIANG, SONG**, "The socio-environmental determinants of schistosomiasis re-emergence," Univ of California at Berkeley (Prime: National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases), \$116,721 (2007-2012)
- LU, BO**, "Ohio family health survey," Health Policy Institute of Ohio, \$20,991 (2009-2009)
- LU, BO**, "Work-related injuries among immigrant workers," Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital (Prime: National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health), \$14,391 (2008-2009)
- LYNCH, COURTNEY**, "Ohio perinatal project," Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital, \$27,206 (2009-2009)
- MCALEARNEY, ANN**, "(ARRA) Implementing cancer treatment measuring and reporting in office and hospital practice," Mount Sinai School of Medicine (Prime: National Cancer Institute), \$36,432 (2009-2010)
- MCALEARNEY, ANN S.**, "Health literacy, technology acceptance, & on-line self-care: understanding teens," Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital (Prime: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development), \$11,225 (2008-2010)
- MCALEARNEY, ANN**, "Promoting safety and quality through human resource practices," Health Research & Educational Trust, \$171,428 (2008-2011)
- MURRAY, DAVID**, "A randomized controlled trial of the combination of two school-based, universal preventive interventions," Johns Hopkins Univ (Prime: US Department of Education), \$128,636 (2008-2010)
- MURRAY, DAVID**, "Community youth development study," University of Washington (Prime: National Institute on Drug Abuse), \$18,128 (2008-2010)
- MURRAY, DAVID**, "Etiology of childhood obesity: A longitudinal study," University of Minnesota (Prime: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute), \$139,610 (2006-2009)
- MURRAY, DAVID**, "RCT for smoking cessation in medical schools," University of Massachusetts Medical Sch (Prime: National Cancer Institute), \$33,179 (2009-2010)
- PASKETT, ELECTRA**, "(ARRA) Enhancing colorectal cancer screening in primary care," National Cancer Institute, \$54,840 (2009-2010)
- PASKETT, ELECTRA**, "Appalachian cancer center network," University of Kentucky (Prime: National Cancer Institute), \$1,187,343 (2005-2010)
- PASKETT, ELECTRA**, "Breast cancer prevention through nutrition program," The Breast Cancer Research Foundation, \$955,431 (2006-2010)
- PASKETT, ELECTRA**, "Cancer control and health outcomes committee chair support," University of Chicago (Prime: National Cancer Institute), \$448,022 (2002-2010)
- PASKETT, ELECTRA**, "Cancer information service," Wayne State University (Prime: National Cancer Institute), \$863,034 (2005-2010)
- PASKETT, ELECTRA**, "CBPR strategies to increase colorectal cancer screening in Ohio Appalachia," National Center for Minority Health & Health Disparities, \$1,401,871 (2008-2010)
- PASKETT, ELECTRA**, "Enhancing Colorectal Cancer Screening in Primary Care," National Cancer Institute, \$1,299,418 (2007-2010)
- PASKETT, ELECTRA**, "Graphical Food Frequency System validity study - The Foods We Eat study," Viocare, Inc, \$263,710 (2009-2011)
- PENNELL, MICHAEL**, "Changes in lung structure and function in children with cystic fibrosis," Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital (Prime: Cystic Fibrosis Foundation), \$9,598 (2009-2010)
- PENNELL, MICHAEL**, "Efficacy of pulmozyme in infants and young children with cystic fibrosis," Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital (Prime: Genentech Inc), \$13,553 (2009-2010)
- PENNELL, MICHAEL**, "Infant pulmonary structure and function group," Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital, \$13,497 (2009-2009)
- PENNELL, MICHAEL**, "Threshold regression methodology for cancer risk assessment," Univ of Maryland (Prime: National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health), \$13,497 (2008-2010)
- PIRIE, PHYLLIS**, "Evaluation services for the Happy Healthy Preschoolers (HHP) program," United Way of Central Ohio, \$20,901 (2009-2009)

PIRIE, PHYLLIS, "Evaluation services for tobacco use prevention and cessation program and healthy communities initiative," Strategic Res Group LLC (Prime: Ohio Department of Health), \$29,770 (2009-2010)

SCHWARTZBAUM, JUDITH, "Allergic condition susceptibility polymorphisms and glioma risk," National Cancer Institute, \$1,041,679 (2008-2010)

SEIBER, ERIC, "Economic evaluation of mental health board funding formulas," Ohio Department of Mental Health, \$19,942 (2009-2009)

SONG, PAULA, "(ARRA) Implementing systemic interventions to close the discovery-delivery gap," University of North Carolina (Prime: National Cancer Institute), \$204,752 (2009-2011)

STEINMAN, KENNETH, "OFVPP-II assessment of family violence outcomes and prevention capacity," Health Policy Institute of Ohio, \$107,342 (2009-2010)

STEVENSON, KURT, "Ohio State health network infection control collaborative: Epi-centers for prevention of healthcare related infections," Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, \$1,572,490 (2006-2011)

STEVENSON, KURT, "Reduction of MRSA colonization in EMS personnel and equipment to prevent secondary injury in Ohio trauma patients," Ohio Department of Public Safety, \$106,655 (2009-2010)

SUN, QINGHUA, "(ARRA) Obesity development: role of air pollution and high fat diet," National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, \$225,000 (2009-2011)

SUN, QINGHUA, "Air pollution and microvascular dysfunction: Leukocyte-dependent NAD(P)H oxidase," National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, \$247,440 (2008-2012)

TANENBAUM, SANDRA, "The role of consumer-operated services in a transforming public mental health system," Ohio Department of Mental Health, \$149,965 (2007-2010)

WEGHORST, CHRISTOPHER, "Are anthocyanins necessary for oral cancer chemoprevention by berries?" National Cancer Institute, \$150,000 (2008-2010)

WEGHORST, CHRISTOPHER, "Food-based modulation of biomarkers in human tissues at high-risk for oral cancer," National Cancer Institute, \$622,500 (2007-2009)

WEWERS, MARY ELLEN, "Behavioral cooperative oncology group," Walther Cancer Inst, \$172,905 (2005-2010)

WEWERS, MARY ELLEN, "Foundations for Healthy Living (Prevention Research Center)," Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, \$300,000 (2009-2014)

WEWERS, MARY ELLEN, "Smokeless tobacco marketing approaches to Ohio Appalachian populations," National Cancer Institute, \$358,999 (2008-2010)

WEWERS, MARY ELLEN, "Tobacco cessation interventions with Ohio Appalachian smokers," National Cancer Institute, \$580,656 (2010-2014)

WILKINS, JOHN, "Bioaerosols in midwest greenhouses and respiratory symptoms among the workers," University of Cincinnati (Prime: National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health), \$20,777 (2008-2010)

WILKINS, JOHN, "Developing and Evaluating New Approaches to Youth Agricultural Injury Prevention," National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health, \$1,167,439 (2007-2010)

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Renee Watts, facilities manager, posting about the Cunz Hall Renovation.



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