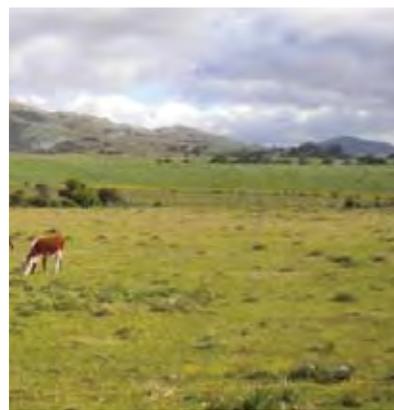




# PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT

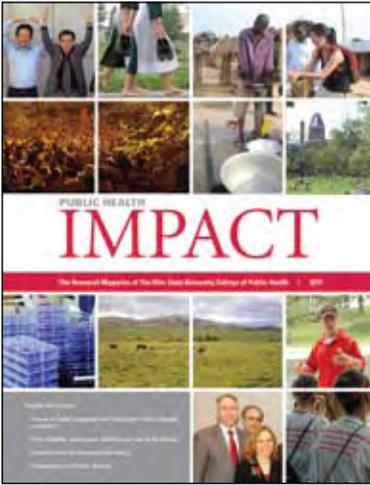
The Research Magazine of The Ohio State University College of Public Health | 2011



### Inside this issue:

- 'Farm to Table' program for Veterinary Public Health students
- Why eligible immigrant children are not in Medicaid
- Food-borne viruses and food safety
- Champions of Public Health





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of our endowments.

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## Dean's Message

# Keeping our priorities straight



As you may know, “Public Health Impact” focuses on the research taking place in the College of Public Health at The Ohio State University. Each time we put this together, I am amazed with the breadth of research taking place in this college. In fact, everything in this publication aligns well with the five public health priorities for America, as outlined by our Association of Schools of Public Health. Those priorities are:

- Ensuring every American an opportunity for a healthy life through two interrelated commitments:
  1. Providing access to affordable, quality health care.
  2. Eliminating health disparities linked to race, ethnicity, socioeconomic and other factors.
- Strengthening the public health infrastructure.
- Increasing investment in efforts to prevent disease, injury, and disability.
- Increasing investment in public health research.
- Strengthening American leadership and investment in global health.

This publication's content suggests we have our priorities straight when it comes to public health research. The stories in this magazine cover access to health care via Medicaid, preventing food-borne illnesses, public investments in public health research, global health, and our Champions of Public Health who work to keep our citizens healthy.

While this publication can't cover all of the many research activities undertaken by our faculty and students, I encourage you to visit our web site at <http://cph.osu.edu/research/awards> to see the full list of research activities.

As many of you know, Cunz Hall is being renovated as the future home of the College of Public Health. We plan to move into our new digs this fall. I am extremely optimistic about the groundbreaking research that will take place in that building. I welcome you to visit us this fall.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stanley Lemeshow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stanley Lemeshow , PhD  
Dean

# Food chain

## 'Farm to Table' program introduces Veterinary Public Health students to global food systems in South America

By Wendy Pramik  
CPH Communications



*Farm to Table participants traveled to Uruguay to learn about global food systems including fish processing.*



*Beef cattle in Uruguay graze on farmland.*

Master of Public Health student Rachel Chouinard enjoys learning about food systems. Within her specialization of Veterinary Public Health, she studies animals raised for consumption and the rules and regulations that are in place to keep Americans healthy and free from harmful chemicals and food-borne pathogens.

So when the chance arrived for her to learn about how another country approaches food safety, Chouinard relished the opportunity.

Chouinard was among 16 participants from the United States, Central America and South America who attended the Farm to Table Study Program in Uruguay in October 2010.

For five days, Chouinard observed agricultural practices at a dozen locations in the small South American country. She saw how dairy and beef cattle are raised on family farms and how their milk and meat is processed at production facilities. She saw how products are packaged for sale in supermarkets. And she learned about the role the South American government plays in regulating agriculture practices to ensure food safety for public health consumption.

"It was awesome to see food safety programs and practices firsthand instead of just reading about it," Chouinard said.

The Farm to Table Study annual trip was created in 2009 by Scott Wells, head of the University of Minnesota's Veterinary Public Health program and Armando Hoet, director of Ohio State's Veterinary Public Health program, as a way to teach others about integrated food systems in exporting countries.

The two American universities partnered with the Universidad de la Republica in Uruguay to establish a meeting site during the first two editions of the program.

"This interactive and engaging study program provides participants the opportunity to appreciate the global integration of food systems," said Hoet, clinical assistant professor in the College of Public Health's Division of Epidemiology and the



*Armando Hoet, director of the Veterinary Health Program, traveled to Uruguay in October 2010 to lead the “Farm to Table Study” program.*

College of Veterinary Medicine.

Hoet is from Venezuela and provided Spanish-English translation during the trip.

“We visited establishments across southern Uruguay, from an extensive beef cattle operation to a specialty cheese plant to a highly sophisticated meat-processing plant,” Hoet said. “We also visited a fish-processing plant, observing firsthand the processing of blue shark, which are apparently in great demand worldwide.”

The program is for graduate students as well as food and health industry professionals and policymakers interested in food production systems, food safety, and food security. Registration is limited to 20 participants. The recent trip united students, professors, veterinarians, and public health officials from the United States, Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay, and Costa Rica.

“The most memorable aspect of the trip was the people in it,” Chouinard said. “Being able to exchange ideas with people of such diverse backgrounds was an amazing experience.”

Chouinard was joined by three fellow students in the Veterinary Public Health program: Pouneh Behin, Janet Buffer and Caitlin Lacey. The students each received scholarships to attend.

“The trip was a light-bulb moment,” said Buffer, who has a background in nutrition and food safety. “I realized, ‘This is what global food is all about.’ Watching food being processed and prepared to be shipped to a place 3,000 miles away. Wow!”

The program was led by five instructors including Hoet and Thomas Wittum, joint professor in the colleges of Public Health and Veterinary Medicine.

This is the second year the program was held in Uruguay. The third installment moves to Costa Rica, Oct. 31 to Nov. 4, 2011, where participants will explore beef, dairy, and poultry farms, as well as visit to largest tilapia processing plant in the Americas, which exports 80 percent of their production to the United States.

The program specifically teaches American students and professionals about the differences among the food systems in various countries. Participants take notes of how animals are treated, how animal products are handled, and the possibilities for public and animal health problems, including safety concerns and food contamination.

“The majority of beef in Uruguay is produced from cattle that are grass-fed on free-range farms, which is very different from the United States, where the majority of cattle are grain-fed on concentrated

animal feeding operations,” said Lacey.

Uruguay exports roughly 70 percent of its beef to the U.S. and Europe.

Participants met with faculty and students from the veterinary school of the Universidad de la Republica in Uruguay. Each day’s events were summarized and reflected upon through group round-table discussions.

For more information about the Farm to Table program, contact Armando Hoet at (614) 292-0684 or [armando.hoet@cvm.osu.edu](mailto:armando.hoet@cvm.osu.edu).

“The majority of beef in Uruguay is produced from cattle that are grass-fed on free-range farms, which is very different from the United States.”

– *Caitlin Lacey,*  
*VPH student*

# Medicaid mystery

## Eric Seiber examines why eligible immigrant children don't enroll in U.S. health program

By Wendy Pramik  
CPH Communications



Eric Seiber, assistant professor in the college's Division of Health Services Management and Policy, is using his understanding of Medicaid to determine why so many eligible immigrant children aren't being enrolled into the U.S. health program for people with low incomes and resources.

Between 1990 and 2005, Seiber says, a wave of immigrants has bucked the historical trend of settling in states along the American border. Instead, they move directly to interior states, including Ohio, in search of better job opportunities.

As a result, the immigrant population has doubled in these non-gateway states.

Seiber is the principal investigator on a three-year project, funded by the Foundation for Child Development, which tackles the question: "Is it harder for eligible immigrant children to enroll in Medicaid in the new immigration states?"

Under United States law, any person born within the country is a citizen, regardless of the citizenship status of their parents. Children born in the U.S. with immigrant parents are eligible for Medicaid coverage, but many are not being enrolled into the system, Seiber says.

"This lack of insurance leaves both foreign- and native-born immigrant children without adequate access to health care, jeopardizing their health and life prospects" Seiber said.

State-level information on insurance status and Medicaid enrollment for children of immigrant families outside the traditional gateway states is largely non-existent, Seiber explained.

To uncover the information, Seiber is plowing through thousands of pages of data from the 2008-2011 Census Bureau's American Community Survey. It includes a sampling of 340,000 immigrant children.

Seiber seeks to identify immigrant children in new states, to test whether fewer citizen children in immigrant families

are enrolled in Medicaid in new immigration states, and to examine why a low number of citizen immigrant children enroll in Medicaid.

The study began in the fall of 2010, and Seiber is wrapping up his first paper. He shared some preliminary information, such as why he believes just one out of three eligible immigrant children is insured.

"It's not easy to enroll in Medicaid no matter who you are," Seiber said. "Medicaid faces the requirement of providing meaningful access, otherwise it's considered discrimination under federal civil rights legislation.

"It's like being a new student at Ohio State who's trying to figure out the university system. But imagine if the entire country is new to you. How do we make the system work for everyone?"

In March 2011 Seiber gave a presentation in Washington, D.C., about insuring immigrant children in new destination states for immigrants, as part of a series presented by the Department of Health and Human Services. The presentation was teleconferenced to a wide audience, including government officials and researchers from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Seiber was chosen for the research project based on his substantial knowledge of insurance and familiarity of the immigrant population.

Seiber has a PhD in Economics from Tulane University and in his early education attended the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. Prior to working at Ohio State, he researched international health reform in Latin America.

"I want to learn if our system is throwing up hurdles for immigrants," Seiber said. "If so, how do we lower the hurdles to get these eligible kids into the system?"

"But first, we need to figure out what are the hurdles and where are they?"



# Food fight

By Wendy Pramik and Martha Filipic  
CPH and FAES Communications

## Jianrong Li combats viruses in fruits, vegetables and shellfish

Jianrong Li is a rarity among research scientists.

The assistant professor in the College of Public Health's Division of Environmental Health Sciences is one of two food virologists at Ohio State and one of only a handful of food virologists specializing in food safety in the United States.

Researching viruses and viral diseases as they relate to food safety has led Li to tackle a number of innovative projects since joining the university in 2008 as part of the Ohio State initiative in Public Health Preparedness for Infectious Diseases. It's also led him to develop a new course at Ohio State called "Food-borne Viruses and Food Safety," which he taught for the first time in spring 2011.

"Currently, in standard food microbiology textbooks, there is little mention of viruses. There is no mention of food safety," said Li, who has a joint appointment in the Department of Food Science and Technology and is a scientist with the university's Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center.

"This project will help us train the next generation of food-safety professionals."

Li's research projects include a four-year, \$1 million study aimed at reducing the incidence of food-borne illness in fresh produce caused by viruses, a five-year, \$5 million study to help crack the code against a virus responsible for the majority of acute respiratory infections, and a four-year, \$1.2 million study to discover non-thermal methods to inactivate viruses in high-risk foods, such as fruits, vegetables and shellfish.

"Viruses, as they relate to food safety, are not well understood," said Li, who has a PhD in Molecular Virology and Immunology from Zhejiang University in China. "There's a real gap in the field that we will try to fill with this research."

Viruses, including human norovirus, hepatitis A virus

and rotavirus, account for more than two out of three food-borne illnesses worldwide. Yet most research, and nearly all education about food-borne illness focus on bacteria, such as *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, *Listeria* and *Campylobacter*.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), noroviruses alone cause more than 21 million cases of acute gastroenteritis and account for more than half all food-borne disease outbreaks. Symptoms include abdominal pain and severe diarrhea among infants and young children.

According to a CDC compilation of outbreak data in the U.S. from 1998 to 2006, norovirus has become the top cause of fresh produce-associated illnesses, accounting for more than 40 percent of outbreaks.

In his most recent study, Li is testing a number of novel, non-thermal methods to inactivate food-borne viruses on such foods as oysters, clams, fresh and frozen berries, and green onions.

Washing these foods doesn't remove the virus, and traditional heating methods, such as pasteurization, destroy the delicate structure and nutritional value of the foods being treated.

Non-thermal methods being tested include ultra-violet rays, ultrasound waves, radiation and high-pressure models. Part of the research also is to test the effectiveness of the various methods on different types of foods.

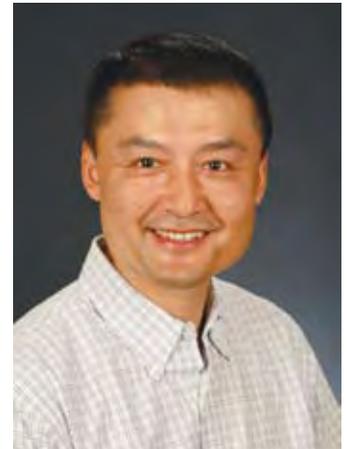
The study, which began in May, is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Integrated Food Safety Initiative and includes researchers from Ohio State and the University of Delaware.

"The incidence of food-borne viral illnesses is rising," Li said. "Despite these facts, there is no effective measure to control virus outbreaks, thus, the development of food-processing technologies to inactivate viruses is urgently needed."

# Faculty News



Jiyoung Lee



Qinghua Sun

## Lake Erie project selected for federal funding

A College of Public Health research project on Lake Erie water quality has been funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Jiyoung Lee, assistant professor in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences, is the principal investigator of the project, titled “Innovative rapid identification of Lake Erie fecal sources,” which will receive \$249,511 from EPA.

Lee’s project was one of 28 Ohio projects among the 270 chosen nationwide. The projects represent a \$17 million total investment by the EPA’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), which works to restore and protect the Great Lakes.

Lee and her team of researchers are developing a new molecular tool to identify and quantify contamination sources at Lake Erie beaches. Combined with beach-sanitary and water-quality surveys, the new tool will help determine if sources of contamination originate from waterfowl or humans.

## Obesity risk increases with pollution exposure

Exposure to polluted air early in life led to an accumulation of abdominal fat and insulin resistance in mice even if they ate a normal diet, according to new research led by Qinghua Sun, associate professor in the college’s Division of Environmental Health Sciences.

Animals exposed to the fine-particulate air pollution had larger and more fat cells in their abdominal area and higher blood sugar levels than did animals eating the same diet but breathing clean air.

Sun and his team of researchers exposed the mice to the polluted air for six hours a day, five days a week for 10 weeks beginning when the animals were 3 weeks old. This time frame roughly matches the toddler years to late adolescence in humans.

The exposure levels for the animals subjected to polluted air

resemble the fine-particulate pollution that can be found in urban areas in the United States.

“This is one of the first, if not the first, study to show that these fine particulates directly cause inflammation and changes in fat cells, both of which increase the risk for Type 2 diabetes,” Sun said.

The research appeared in the December 2010 issue of the journal *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology*.

## Xiang honored for injury research

Huiyun Xiang, who has a joint appointment as an associate professor in the Division of Epidemiology and as a researcher at the Center for Injury Research and Policy at the Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, received two awards from the Research Institute in January for his accomplishments as a principal investigator and director of the center’s international program.

Xiang received the 2010 Outstanding Principal Investigator and 2010 Outstanding Mentor awards.

“We are incredibly proud of his achievements,” said Gary Smith, Director of the Center for Injury Research and Policy.

## Paskett, Katz present research at preventive oncology meeting

College of Public Health Professor Electra Paskett led the American Society of Preventive Oncology’s annual meeting in Las Vegas in March. Paskett is the president of the society, which is the primary association for cancer prevention and control scientists.

This year’s meeting focused on “Cancer Prevention and Control Across the Lifecourse,” and featured national experts in cancer presentation, control and survivorship.

Paskett presented “The Promise of a Cancer-Free World. Where Are We?” during the ASPO Presidential Address



*Electra Paskett*



*Sarah Anderson*



*Timothy Buckley*

and moderated the panel discussion “A Cancer-Free World: Collaboration in Science to Get There.”

Paskett also serves as associate director of Population Sciences at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute, and the Marion N. Rowley Designated Chair in Cancer Research.

Mira Katz, associate professor in the Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion, gave a presentation titled “Patient activation increases colorectal cancer (CRC) screening rates among low-income minority patients.”

### **Parent-toddler relationships could affect obesity risk**

Toddlers who do not have a secure emotional relationship with their parents, and particularly their mothers, could be at increased risk for obesity by age 4 ½, according to new research by Sarah Anderson, assistant professor in the Division of Epidemiology.

The study suggests that children at age 24 months who show insecure attachment patterns have at least 30 percent higher odds for obesity by age 4 ½. The association persisted even after researchers accounted for other family-related factors that could provide alternative explanations for the obesity.

Psychologists describe securely attached children as those who rely on their parents as a “safe haven,” which allows them to explore their environments freely, adapt easily to new people and be comforted in stressful situations. Toddlers who are insecurely attached tend to have experienced negative or unpredictable parenting, and may respond to stress with extreme anger, fear or anxiety, or avoid or refuse interactions with others.

The findings suggest that overlapping regulatory areas of

the brain that govern emotional and stress responses, as well as control appetite and energy balance, could provide a stronger influence than previously thought on the likelihood that a young child will be obese.

“I hope this work can help to broaden our thinking about the causes of childhood obesity,” Anderson said.

Anderson co-authored the paper with Robert Whitaker, professor of public health and pediatrics at Temple University. The research is published in the journal *Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine* in March 2011.

### **UV light in vacuum cleaner reduces carpet microbes**

Timothy Buckley, associate professor and chair of the Division of Environmental Health Sciences, is the senior author of a study that suggests the addition of ultraviolet light to the brushing and suction of a vacuum cleaner can almost double the removal of potentially infectious microorganisms from a carpet’s surface when compared to vacuuming alone.

“What this tells us is there is a commercial vacuum with UV technology that’s effective at reducing surface microbes. This has promise for public health, but we need more data,” Buckley said. “Carpets are notorious as a source for exposure to a lot of bad stuff, including chemicals, allergens and microbes. We need tools that are effective and practical to reduce the associated public health risk. This vacuum technology appears to be a step in the right direction.”

The research appeared online in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology* in November 2010.

Co-authors include Eric Lutz, Smita Sharma and Bruce Casto of the Division of Environmental Health Sciences and Glen Needham of Ohio State’s Department of Entomology.

# Faculty News



Mira Katz

## Breast cancer screening is focus of Amish study

Breast cancer incidence rates among Amish women are lower than the general population of women living in Ohio, however, the Amish have higher rates of advanced stage at diagnosis for breast cancer and screening rates are lower among these women.

Mira Katz, associate professor in the College of Public Health's Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion, is working to reverse the trend. She recently received a \$13,275 grant from the Columbus affiliate of the *Susan G. Komen for the Cure* to lead the second year of a community research project that aims to improve breast cancer knowledge and screening rates among Amish women living in two Ohio Appalachian counties.

"The Black Bonnet Project" will reach more than 100 Amish women living in Gallia and Jackson counties. The project focuses on three factors to improve breast health. First, breast health educational sessions will be conducted among women belonging to four church districts in the region. Second, transportation will be provided for women, ages 18 and older, to receive a clinical breast examination by a trained nurse at the Gallia County health department. Third, mobile mammography services will be provided for women ages 40 and older during a visit to the Amish community.

"This project is an example of community-based participatory research," Katz said. "The Amish community asked us for help to address the problem of Amish women dying from breast cancer in their community.

"We worked together to develop and implement a culturally-appropriate educational program to increase access to breast health services, providing Amish women with a greater chance of survival."

The outreach project is a team effort among The Ohio State University College of Public Health, Appalachia Community



Allard Dembe and representatives from Nanning University, Jiangsu Province, Japan

Cancer Network, Partners of Hope Cancer Coalition, Gallia County Health Department, and the Amish women living in Gallia and Jackson counties.

## CPH, Nanjing University partner on health care project

Allard Dembe, associate professor and chair of the College of Public Health's Division of Health Services Management and Policy, traveled to Nanjing University in China in May to meet with faculty and students, and local hospital executives and government officials to discuss healthcare management and research opportunities in China.

Dembe was hosted by Professor Gu Hai, head of Nanjing's Center of Health Management and Policy, which is part of the Department of Labor and Social Security in the Nanjing University School of Government.

"We discussed a variety of collaborative opportunities, including student and faculty exchanges, joint research studies, video teleconference classes, and consultation services for Chinese officials," Dembe said. "These discussions resulted in the signing of a bilateral cooperation agreement."

The agreement potentially includes a multiyear research collaboration between Nanjing University and Ohio State's College of Public Health to develop a plan for integrated health care systems in China, modeled on systems used in the U.S. Demonstration pilots will initially be set up in Jiangsu Province and later extended to other provinces.

The project will be directed by Professor Gu and include participation from Dembe and doctoral students from both Ohio State and Nanning University's health services policy and management programs.

Also while in China, Dembe presented a lecture titled "Health Care and Public Health in the United States: Potential Implications for China" on May 5 to about 50 people at the university.



*Thousands of Ohio State students demonstrate their Ohio State spirit by jumping into Mirror Lake.*

## Jumping into Mirror Lake?

### Try to be the first, say public health researchers

Vanessa Burrowes, an undergraduate majoring in Biology, has tested the water in Mirror Lake during the traditional jump preceding the Ohio State and Michigan football game.

She knows she can't keep students from jumping into Mirror Lake, but she recommends a strategy.

"I realize I won't be able to prevent every student from participating in this event, but I would recommend that if they are going to, they jump early on in the night, before all of the sediments re-suspend the bacteria that pose a human-health risk," Burrowes said.

Burrowes worked on the research with Jiyoung Lee, assistant professor in the College of Public Health's Division of Environmental Health Sciences (EHS). They, along with several EHS doctoral students, presented results of this and other water studies at the 111th General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in May.

Presenters included Burrowes, Professor Lee, postdoctoral students Cheonghoon Lee and Chang Soo Lee, and doctoral students Jason Marion, Jonathan Lutz and Senyo Agidi.

Burrowes also presented the research at the Ohio State Denman Undergraduate Research Forum in May.

The tradition, which dates back to 1990, occurs on an evening preceding the annual Ohio State and Michigan football matchup. Thousands of students demonstrate their Ohio State spirit by jumping into the small lake, despite the often frigid November temperatures.

Burrowes took samples of the water before, during and after the 2010 jump. Chang Soo Lee and Marion also worked on the project.

The researchers tested the water for increased levels of bacteria and fecal matter. Levels peaked when the lake contained the most people. Results showed that what fecal

matter and bacteria previously existed in the lake as sediment became agitated when people moved about in the water, making it more of a health threat.

Burrowes also found that the people jumping into the lake on the evening that she tested the water added little more to the amount of fecal matter that had already existed.

## MPH student creates 'opportunity maps' to restore housing in hurricane-damaged area

Thanks to the work of one Master of Public Health student, a hurricane-ravaged area in Texas is now prime real estate for low-income families.

Avrita Singh, an MPH student specializing in Health Behavior and Health Promotion, created geographic maps as part of her culminating project that will be used to identify locations for new public housing in Galveston County, Texas, where the majority of public housing stock was damaged by Hurricane Ike in 2008.

Singh worked with Ohio State's Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity to conduct a community assessment of Galveston County, using geographic information system software to illustrate the distribution of social and material resources in the area.

Singh found that African Americans and Hispanics in the county were more likely to reside in low-opportunity areas, where current public housing was highly concentrated and flood vulnerability was high. Better areas for public housing existed near metropolitan areas and major roadways, where availability of and access to resources much higher.

Singh created "opportunity maps" to advocate for the placement of public housing in more desirable areas. Her recommendations, which will help disperse poverty, desegregate communities and improve overall community health, will be sent to the Galveston Housing Authority to assist with the rebuilding of the damaged public housing stock.

## Student News

“What attracted me to this nontraditional, community assessment project was the opportunity to collect and analyze social determinants of health and use them to create opportunity maps,” Singh said. “The maps serve as a helpful framework to identify where disparities in social resources are located and help provide evidence for policy reform as well as public health interventions.”

Singh’s academic advisor is Clinical Associate Professor Randi Love.

### Marion earns top prize in poster competition

Jason Marion, PhD student in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences, won first place in a poster competition at the Water Management Association of Ohio’s conference in November 2010 in Columbus.

Marion’s poster, titled “Wet Weather and Total Phosphorus: Practical Predictors of Advisory Conditions at Inland Ohio Beaches,” also won Marion praises from the judges.

“The future of Ohio’s water resources lies in the imagination and hard work of persons like you,” said Alex Covert, conference chair and biologist at the USGS-Ohio Water Science Center in Columbus.

### Cancer prevention research earns honors

Blake Warner, a doctoral student in the College of Public Health and the College of Dentistry, was the winner of the “Best Basic Science Research Presentation” at the Hinman Student Research Symposium, held in Memphis, Tenn., in October 2010.

The symposium was sponsored by the Hinman Dental Society.

Warner, who received a Master of Public Health in 2007, presented research that he conducted with Christopher Weghorst, professor in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences.

Warner’s presentation, “LBR negativity modulated BIRC5/Survivin in human oral cancers,” builds upon previous research that suggests the consumption of diets rich in fruits and vegetables may reduce the risk of developing cancer of the head and neck.

“This data adds to the body of evidence that whole foods, such as black raspberries, may be able to modify the risk of developing cancer,” Warner said.

Warner also was awarded the American Association for Dental Research Student Research Fellowship for his proposal titled “Extracts of strawberries and strawberries bio-incorporated with selenium inhibit experimental oral cancer”



*PhD student Jason Marion, who won the top prize in a poster competition, shares his passion for water management.*

at the International Association for Dental Research Annual Scientific Meeting in San Diego in March.

“Each proposal was competitively evaluated on its scientific merits in a manner similar to those used for NIH grants,” Warner said. “Awards were made on the basis of creativity of the project, its feasibility, and the potential significance to oral health research.”

Each fellowship consists of a stipend, money for supplies, and funds for travel. Upon completion of his research, Warner will present the results of the experiments at the AADR Annual Scientific Meeting in Tampa, Fla., in 2012.

### HBHP doctoral student joins Boonshoft School of Medicine

Michele Battle-Fisher, a doctoral student in the Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion, was appointed as an instructor and assistant program director of the Master of Public Health Program at Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State University in Dayton in January 2010.

Battle-Fisher, who previously received a Master of Public Health degree and a Master of Arts in African Studies from Ohio State, also had a peer-reviewed article published in the December 2010 issue of the *OJHE Online Journal of Health Ethics*.

The article explores how social networks might affect living organ donation decisions and was a result of research she conducted as a visiting scholar at the Hastings Center, Garrison, N.Y.

### Undergrad student presents pollution research

Kevin Tzan, an undergraduate public health research assistant presented a poster at the National Environmental Health Association’s 2011 Annual Education Conference and



MPH student Stephani Kim, right, in Ghana

Exhibition in June in Columbus.

Tzan works with Qinghua Sun, associate professor in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences. He will present his abstract entitled “Effects of Particulate Air Pollution during Beijing Olympic Games in a Mouse Model.”

Tzan also presented the research at the 50th Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology, in Washington, D.C., in March.

### HSMP student receives scholarship to attend rural health conference

Naomi Adaniya, a PhD student in the Division of Health Services Management and Policy, won a \$1,000 scholarship to attend the National Rural Health Association’s 34th annual conference in Austin, Texas, in May.

“It’s the premier rural health conference in the country,” Adaniya said.

The association also publishes the *Journal of Rural Health*.

In 2008, Adaniya also was the recipient of the Center for Health Outcomes, Policy and Evaluation Studies’ Doctoral Studies Traineeship Award.

### CPH students join OSU Ghana trip

Three public health graduate students traveled to Ghana in March as part of Ohio State’s Study Abroad Program.

Stephani Kim, Jessica Blank and Patrice Scipio, all pursuing Master of Public Health degrees, were among 18 students selected by the university’s City and Regional Planning Department to learn about public health and development issues in the Offinso North District of Ghana.

The over-populated community has limited access to clean drinking water, poor sanitation, and inadequate health care and education facilities.

Kim is specializing in Environmental Health Sciences. Blank is pursuing a dual degree in Public Health and Nursing. Scipio

is a medical doctor pursuing her MPH in Health Behavior and Health Promotion.

### Two EHS students accept overseas internships

Two Master of Public Health students specializing in Environmental Health Sciences (EHS) have accepted three-month overseas internships.

Paul Kerr III received an offer from a division of the West Pacific Regional Office of the World Health Organization, to work on his project titled “Strengthening Control of Vectorborne Diseases to Lessen the Impact of Climate Change in the Western Pacific Region.”

Kerr will assist in analyzing data and help manage a project about the control of malaria and other parasitic diseases in Manila, Philippines.

Christina Kim received an offer from the Tropical Disease Research Laboratory in Khon Kaen University, Thailand, to work on a project titled “Environmental Determinants and Epidemiology of *Opisthorchis Viverrini* (liver fluke) in Thon (Khon) Kaen,” led by Professor Banchob Scripa.

Both students’ academic advisor is Song Liang, assistant professor in EHS.

### Honorable mention for students in annual Case Competition

Master of Health Administration students Chris Baranek, Laura Block and Amelia Brown traveled to Birmingham, Ala., in February to compete in the Health Administration Case Competition and earned an honorable mention.

The competition allows students an opportunity to put what they’ve learned into practice by using a real case study. This year’s case involved improving collaborative care at Memorial Hermann Health System in Houston.

“Our team had a solid presentation and I’m proud of their accomplishments,” said Paula Song, assistant professor in the Division of Health Services Management and Policy. Song mentored the students and traveled with them to Alabama.



From left, MHA students Chris Baranek, Laura Block & Amelia Brown



Dean Stanley Lemeshow, left, with the 2010 Champions of Public Health award winners.

## College celebrates Champions of Public Health

The Champions of Public Health Awards recognize the impact that individuals and groups have made on the health of Ohioans.

The 2010 award winners were Neil H. Altman, health commissioner of the Youngstown City Health District, in the Public Health Practitioner category; Cathy Levine, executive director of the Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio, in the Community Leader category; and the Healthy Tusc Taskforce, in the Organization category.

Below is more information about the 2010 winners.

**Neil H. Altman** served as the health commissioner of the Youngstown City Health District since 1980. He retired in May 2011. During his tenure he led dozens of committees to address the public health needs of his community, including such issues as child welfare, homelessness, AIDS prevention and the importance of immunization.

“It’s difficult to be a health commissioner anywhere, but to do the job and do it well in an area that’s been hit hard, even before the recession, is indeed a difficult task,” said nominator Lana Cherrington of the Ross County Health District.

Altman received a Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina in 1977, and a Bachelor of Arts from Temple University in 1972.

**Cathy Levine** is the executive director of the Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio. The statewide organization advocates for high quality and affordable health care for all Ohioans through education, coalition building, grassroots efforts and policy advocacy.

“Working in an arena packed with some of the most powerful players in the political process, Cathy Levine is a longtime advocate for the consumer,” said nominator

Susan Ackerman of the Center for Community Solutions in Columbus. “She has worked for years to make high-quality, accessible and affordable health care available for everyone.”

Levine has a Juris Doctorate from New England School of Law, a Master’s in Feminist Studies from Goddard College and a Bachelor of Art in Politics from New York University.

**The Healthy Tusc Taskforce** was formed in 2009 by a group of concerned health and wellness providers to respond to the increasing prevalence of obesity in Tuscarawas County.

Ohio ranks fourth in the nation for the number of overweight high school students. The adult obesity rate in Ohio is 26.3 percent, and in Tuscarawas County the rate is 32.4, according to Barbara Burns, chairman of Healthy Tusc and director of the WIC program at the Tuscarawas County Health Department.

“We want our residents, especially our children, to learn to make healthy choices,” said Burns. “But that’s only one step. In order to make healthy choices, there first must be healthy choices available in our communities.”

The taskforce’s objectives are to increase opportunities for physical activity; to increase access to healthy and nutritious food options, while limiting access to unhealthy food options; and to influence policy that impacts obesity.

The taskforce is a broad-based coalition with many partners, including the Tuscarawas County Health Department, Union Hospital, Twin City Hospital, Tuscarawas Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio State University Extension, Kent State Tuscarawas Campus, East Central Ohio Educational Service Center, Tuscarawas Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Tuscarawas County Commissioner’s Office, YMCA and ADAMHS.

# Save the Date!

October 14, 2011

## Cunz Hall Dedication and Champions of Public Health

The College of Public Health will hold its annual Champions of Public Health awards at a special location, the newly renovated Cunz Hall. The gala will celebrate the first time the entire college has been under one roof.

We hope you will join us for the 2011 Champions of Public Health, ribbon-cutting, and building tours. This event is sponsored by Ruscilli Construction Company and Jonathan Barnes Architecture & Design.

For more information, contact Christine O'Malley: [comalley@cph.osu.edu](mailto:comalley@cph.osu.edu).

To be added to our e-mail list, go to [www.cph.osu.edu/2011Gala](http://www.cph.osu.edu/2011Gala).

To view the latest photos of the Cunz Hall project, visit our Flickr site at <http://go.osu.edu/CPHpix>





COLLEGE OF  
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*Mira Katz, associate professor in the College of Public Health's Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion, contributed a piece of her glass artwork to the Cunz Hall renovation project. Her piece, titled "Faces of Public Health," represents human diversity and will hang on a wall in the renovated building when it opens in fall 2011. Cunz Hall is the university's first LEED-certified renovation project. Follow our Cunz Hall blog at <http://cph.osu.edu/cunzblog/>.*

