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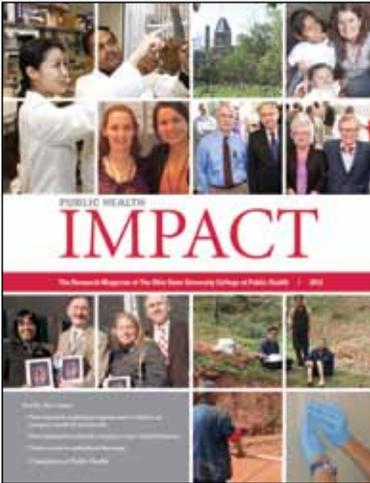
The Research Magazine of The Ohio State University College of Public Health | 2012



Inside this issue:

- New research training program uses evidence to compare medical treatments
- How population density impacts water-linked diseases.
- Tobacco use in subsidized housing
- Champions of Public Health





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compare medical treatments.*



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smoke-free housing policy.*



*p.8 High population density
is greatest risk factor for water
-linked diseases.*

It's all about people



With this publication, I'm proud to share our latest successes with you from our new home in Cunz Hall. You can read more about our grand opening later in this issue. But I want to draw your attention to the people in this publication. Public health is all about people, and I'd like to take a moment to shine the spotlight on a few special ones.

Mary Ellen Wewers, professor in our Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion, has received the 2012 Ohio State President and Provost's Award for Distinguished Faculty Service. Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee made the surprise presentation, telling Mary Ellen, "Very few people, I can tell you, have made more of a difference at Ohio State than have you."

Dr. Wewers thoroughly deserves the recognition. Watch a video of the emotional presentation: <http://go.osu.edu/wewersaward>.

Melvin Shipp, dean of Ohio State's College of Optometry, joined the College of Public Health Division of Health Services Management and Policy (HSMP) as a joint professor. He currently serves as president of the American Public Health Association.

We welcome his advocacy and passion for public health education.

Sharon Schweikhart, associate professor in the HSMP division, was selected to become chair-elect of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA).

Last, but not least, research by Thomas Wickizer, Stephen F. Loeb's Professor in our HSMP division, has had a direct impact on health care policy in the state of Washington.

Why are these accolades important? The body of work produced by these and other public health experts results in healthier, happier, more productive lives for our communities.

And our communities include the South Side of Columbus and the other side of the world.

This past winter, two of my public health colleagues joined me on a teaching trip to India, during which we taught more than 100 students courses in biostatistics and epidemiology at Manipal University. We are hopeful about furthering our partnership with Manipal, now that Ohio State has a gateway office in India.

In this magazine, you will read about water-borne infectious disease, evidence-based medical treatment, teen obesity, and workers' compensation laws. All of the work we do around these topics has a goal of improving lives and preventing disease.

I salute our faculty, staff, students, and alumni who are pursuing those goals every day.

Sincerely,

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

Stanley Lemeshow, PhD

Dean

Rules of evidence

New research training program uses evidence to compare medical treatments

By Carrie Benseler
CPH Communications

A new program at Ohio State will train doctors, nurses and other health professionals on methods that compare emerging technologies and treatment options for serious illnesses and injuries.

The training provides a general introduction to Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) and in-depth instruction on specific CER methods.

The *Comparative Effectiveness Research Online Learning Center*, launched March 1, 2012, is a collaboration among The Ohio State University Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS), College of Public Health and Nationwide Children's Hospital. CER resources were developed with funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to provide training in CER methodology and application.

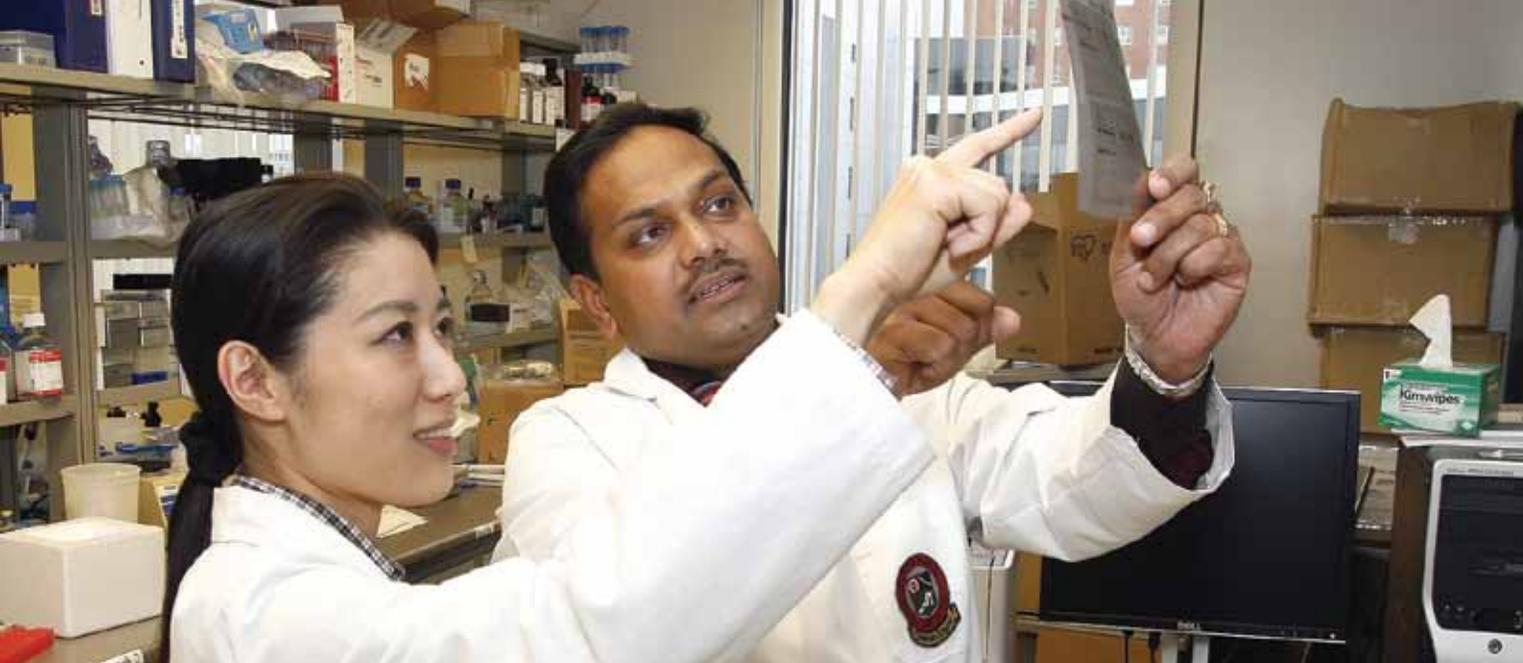
CER is a field of study that generates data by conducting new studies and synthesizing them with existing studies to help identify best practices and policies related to improving health care. Applications of CER work include comparisons of drug therapy, primary care practices, emerging technologies, treatment options for serious illnesses, program evaluation, and many more.

CER data can be used by patients, doctors, care teams, healthcare professionals, and policy makers to improve decision-making for their own health and the health of others.

"CER is gaining wide attention as an approach to better understand which therapies work best for different patient groups. Physicians, nurses and other health care professionals and clinicians need to have some knowledge and understanding of the methods used to conduct CER. By making the training material publicly available, we hope to improve the ability of clinicians and other health care professionals to participate in CER," said Thomas Wickizer, PhD, MPH, director of the



Thomas Wickizer



Center for Health Outcomes, Policy and Evaluation Studies (HOPES) and the Stephen F. Loeb Professor of Health Services Management and Policy in Ohio State's College of Public Health.

The new online learning center offers 16 open-source course modules designed to address the diverse topics in the field of CER. Course modules can be accessed at any time on a variety of platforms, depending on individual needs.

Throughout the modules, examples of analysis methods are presented in a format that allows participants to understand their application and to work through the examples using their own analysis

program. **Scan code at left to view modules.** Modules also address the practical issues involved in conducting CER studies. The modules were created using remote lecture



“By making the training material publicly available, we hope to improve the ability of clinicians and other health care professionals to participate in CER,”

– *Thomas Wickizer, PhD, MPH*

capture technology in the College of Public Health.

The CER training program encompasses all 16 online course modules, an individual capstone research experience, and a week-long summer course offered through the

Center for Public Health Practice (CPHP) to provide more in-depth and hands-on CER training (2012 Summer Program). **Materials and recordings from the 2011 Summer Program can be found by scanning the code at right.**



CER Online Learning Center

instructors include national CER experts and local CER/Birth Outcomes researchers.

Leadership on the project includes Wickizer; Kelly Kelleher, MD, Nationwide Children's Hospital; Rebecca Jackson, MD, CCTS; and Michael Bisesi, PhD, CPHP.

Modules include:

Causality, Effect Identification & Statistical Inference; Research Design in Comparative Effectiveness Research; Propensity Score Theory; Propensity Score Application; Instrumental Variable Methods; Introduction to Economic Evaluation; Decision Modeling; Working with Health Care Claims and Complex Survey Data; Simple Linear Regression;

Survival Analysis; An Introduction to Systematic Reviews; An Introduction to Meta-Analysis; Translating CER Evidence into Practice, Policy and Public Health; Translational Toolbox; Pragmatic Clinical Trials 1; Pragmatic Clinical Trials 2.

House rules

Study to influence smoke-free housing policy

By *Carrie Benseler*
CPH Communications

Nancy Hood, doctoral candidate in the college's Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion, hopes her research on secondhand smoke in subsidized housing can result in healthier indoor environments for residents.

Hood's current research study found a 47.5 percent smoking rate in local subsidized housing – more than twice the national rate of smoking in the U.S.

Hood focused her research on 1,000 subsidized housing units without an existing smoke-free policy in five urban Columbus, Ohio neighborhoods. All units were managed by Community Properties of Ohio (CPO), a private, mission-driven property management company. A face-to-face survey was conducted with 301 tenants in the fall of 2011,

and had a 64 percent response rate. Tenants were predominately young, African American females with young children. The study also looked at how many tenants voluntarily limit smoking inside their homes. Only 29.2 percent of respondents had strict voluntary restrictions – meaning they never let anyone smoke inside – which is less than half of the national rate.

Surface nicotine samples were collected in 279 units to validate self-reported in-home smoking. The samples were collected by wiping interior housing unit doors with cotton wipes. Samples were sent to San Diego State University for analysis.

The final purpose of the study was to uncover how many

New housing study awarded

The College of Public Health is also working with the Ohio Housing Finance Agency on the Health Impact Project, an assessment study to examine the health impact of a proposed policy change to reduce the frequency of physical affordable-housing inspections in the State of Ohio.

The Health Impact Project is a collaborative effort among the U.S. Department of Rural Development, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Ohio State's College of Public Health. The project received a \$125,000 grant in March 2012 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts.

The proposed policy is an effort of the Obama Administration to better coordinate federal rental policy.

Liz Klein, PhD, MPH, assistant professor in the college's Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion, is the principal investigator on Ohio State's subcontract with the Ohio Housing Finance Agency.

"This HIA will inform decisions on a proposal to improve interagency coordination and streamline the current system for housing inspections on affordable housing units. The results of this health impact assessment will evaluate how the proposed policy change might affect health for thousands of units of affordable multi-family housing in Ohio," Klein said.

The Health Impact Project will specifically examine the environmental, physical and mental health issues associated with a proposed reduction in the frequency of physical inspections. Routine housing inspections help identify and remedy substandard physical conditions like water leaks and mold, pests, peeling paint, and structural hazards that can contribute to a variety of health problems including asthma, injury, burns and mental illness. Decisions on the proposed policy modifications are expected later this year.



Left: Anna Borsick, community data collector, conducts a survey about smoking & secondhand smoke with subsidized housing tenants. Center: Nancy Hood, collects a surface wipe sample to measure the amount of nicotine on the door. Right: Amber Broadus, community data collector, prepares to collect a surface wipe sample.

tenants supported smoke-free policies that could be imposed by the housing provider. About half of the respondents (54.5 percent) supported a smoke-free policy inside their units while only 36.3 percent supported a smoke-free policy on porches or steps outside their units. Support was much lower among smokers.

The data were collected by Hood and two former subsidized housing tenants who were hired for the study. Three College of Public Health students also helped with data collection: Danyelle Heard; Katherine Meeker; and Meaghan Novi.

“I thought the smoking rate would be high, but not this high. This is also a strong reminder that voluntary smoke-free home restrictions are a culture change that has not happened yet among certain demographics,” Hood said.

Hood feels that mandatory smoke-free policies may not be the best way to lead change, but would rather see more education to help raise awareness among certain populations, and policies that encourage behavior change instead of punishing existing behaviors.

“My research interests include affordable housing and tobacco control, so this study fit with my interests and the need,” Hood said. “I was very fortunate that CPO was such a willing partner for the study. They are always looking for ways to support tenants who are trying to make positive changes in their lives. They were very interested in finding out what is currently going on with in-home smoking among their tenants before even thinking about whether they wanted

to address the problem with a smoke-free policy or other intervention.”

These findings will inform the development of policies and intervention strategies for smoke-free subsidized housing.

Since 2009, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has encouraged subsidized housing providers to adopt mandatory smoke-free policies. However, subsidized

housing tenants likely experience multiple individual, social and environmental barriers to making their homes smoke-free.

“There has been limited evaluation of existing smoke-free policies and compliance appears to be low. In addition, barriers to policy effectiveness have been proposed but not systematically documented,” Hood said.

Hood’s study used a social ecological framework (i.e., individual, interpersonal, organizational and community levels of influence) to examine the factors associated with establishing or maintaining voluntary home smoking restrictions among subsidized housing tenants, such as neighborhood safety. Hood’s forth-

coming research papers will describe the potential barriers to the effectiveness of mandatory smoke-free policies in subsidized housing.

This study was funded by a dissertation grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of University Partnerships (Grant Number H-21629SG), Community Properties of Ohio, and the College of Public Health’s Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion.



Nancy Hood, doctoral student, Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion

Part of the crowd

High population density is greatest risk factor for water-linked diseases

By Emily Caldwell

Ohio State Research Communications



Water-associated infectious disease outbreaks are more likely to occur in areas where a region's population density is growing, according to a new global analysis of economic and environmental conditions that influence the risk for these outbreaks.

Ohio State University scientists constructed a massive database containing information about 1,428 water-associated disease outbreaks that were reported between 1991 and 2008 around the world. By combining outbreak records with data on a variety of socio-environmental factors known about the affected regions, the researchers developed a model that can be used to predict risks for water-associated disease outbreaks anywhere in the world.

The research appears in *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases*, a journal published by the *Public Library of Science*.

There are five different categories of water-associated diseases, depending on the role water plays in the disease transmission process. Population density was a risk factor for all types of these diseases. Prolonged and excessive heat was shown to be a driver of water-related diseases that are transmitted to people by insect bites.

The study shows that clusters of reported outbreaks tended to occur in Western Europe, Central Africa, Northern India and Southeast Asia. These regions, as well as Latin America and eastern Brazil, were targeted as potential "hot spots" at highest risk for future water-associated disease outbreaks ranging from *E. coli*-related diarrhea to dengue fever.

World health experts conservatively estimate that 4 percent of deaths – almost 2 million annually – and 5.7 percent of illnesses around the world are caused by infectious diseases related to unsafe water, sanitation, and hygiene problems. Getting a better handle on the socio-environmental factors that affect the risks for water-associated disease outbreaks

is a first step toward guiding policymakers as they prioritize the distribution of health resources around the world, the researchers say.

"We know water is essential to life, but we also know that water is a vehicle that can carry hazards. If we understand the risk factors of disease better, we can inform policy decisions because resources are limited. Second, we can provide an early warning to certain places that are undergoing global environmental change because our model shows how those changes affect outbreak risks," said Song Liang, senior author of the study and an assistant professor of environmental health sciences at Ohio State.

"We're not going to address all of the questions in one study, but we hope to set the stage for studies that can move toward that goal."

Most information on water-associated pathogens and infectious diseases in the Ohio State database came from the *Global Infectious Disease and Epidemiology Network (GIDEON)*, a web-based database containing details on outbreaks for 337 recognized infectious diseases in 231 countries and regions. Liang and colleagues also collected extensive data from journal articles and health organization publications to supplement the GIDEON information.

Among the information included in the Ohio State database were disease-causing agents, such as bacteria or viruses, and their biological characteristics; water's role in disease transmission; disease transmission routes; and details about whether the recorded outbreak represented an emergence or re-emergence of a water-associated disease for a given region. These details were crossed with a socio-environmental database that contained data on population density, global average accumulated temperature, surface area of water bodies, average annual rainfall and per-capita gross domestic product.



Researchers conduct a field investigation on re-emerging schistosomiasis in Zhongjiang County, Sichuan Province, China in 2008.

Each disease was classified into one of five categories:

- water-borne (such as typhoid and cholera), cause by microorganisms that enter water through fecal contamination and cause infection when humans consume contaminated water. A subset of these, called “water-carried” diseases, result from accidental ingestion of contaminated water in a recreational setting;
- water-based (such as schistosomiasis), caused by parasites that spend part of their life in water;
- water-related (such as malaria and trypanosomiasis), which need water for breeding of insects that act as vectors in transmitting disease to humans;
- water-washed, caused by poor personal or domestic hygiene because no clean water is available; and
- water-dispersed (such as Legionella), caused by infectious agents that thrive in water and enter the body through the respiratory tract.

Among the reported outbreaks, 70.9 percent were water-borne diseases, 2.9 percent water-based, 12.2 percent water-related, 6.8 percent water-washed, and 7.3 percent water-dispersed. Almost half were caused by bacteria, with nearly 40 percent caused by viruses and the rest by parasites.

The analysis also showed that fewer water-washed diseases occurred in places with larger bodies of surface water, and that areas with higher average annual rainfall had fewer outbreaks of water-borne and water-related diseases.

“No single factor can explain this distribution,” Liang said. “And for different categories of diseases, the impact of those factors varies. This is the first time we’ve had large-scale proof of that.”

“At this point, we’ve identified all of the reported outbreaks, but not every socio-environmental factor that influenced them.”

The model predicts that Western Europe, Central Africa and Northern India are at higher risk for water-borne diseases, especially *E. coli* diarrhea, and that the risk in Europe is primarily driven by water-borne diseases that tend to occur in recreational areas. Western Europe, North Africa and Latin America tend to be at higher risk for water-washed diseases, particularly viral conjunctivitis. Water-washed diseases emerge when water is not available for sanitary practices like hand-washing. Risks associated with water-based diseases, especially schistosomiasis, were highest in east Brazil, Northwest and Central Africa and southeast of China.

Even with all of the data available, the researchers suggest that their database and map represent just a fraction of the actual outbreaks that have occurred because the under-reporting of these diseases is a common problem, especially in the developing world.

They also were surprised to find that economic status did not appear to influence risk for water-associated disease outbreaks, at least on a global scale. “When we look specifically at an area on a smaller scale, we might find something different,” Liang said.

This work is supported in part by the National Institutes of Health and by two Ohio State University programs: Public Health Preparedness for Infectious Diseases and Climate, Water and Carbon.

Co-authors, all from Ohio State, include first author Kun Yang and Bo Lu of the College of Public Health (Yang is now with the Jiangsu Institute of Parasitic Diseases in China); Jeffrey LeJeune of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center and the College of Veterinary Medicine; and Doug Alsdorf and C.K. Shum of the School of Earth Sciences.

Faculty news



Mary Ellen Wewers (center) upon receiving her award. Left to right: Mark Wewers, Stanley Lemeshow, Wewers, Carole Anderson and Randy Fink.

Wewers receives President and Provost's Award

Professor Mary Ellen Wewers, PhD, MPH, RN, has been awarded the Ohio State President and Provost's Award for Distinguished Faculty Service. Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee made the surprise presentation during a meeting in Cunz Hall on Feb. 28. Wewers is the first person in the College of Public Health to receive the award.

"Mary Ellen's commitment to the Ohio State community and her work stems from the high value she places on education, her passion for social responsibility, and her dedication to maximizing our work environment," wrote Dean Stanley Lemeshow when nominating Wewers for the honor.

Wewers is a professor in the college's Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion. Her research specialty is tobacco cessation with special interests in underserved populations. Her work designing smoking cessation programs was recognized nationally in July 2011, when she was invited to present her research to the Interagency Committee on Smoking and Health that is chaired by the Surgeon General.

Watch the video at go.osu.edu/wewers award or scan the code at right.



Schweikhart named AUPHA chair-elect

Sharon Schweikhart, PhD, MBA, associate professor in the Division of Health Services Management and Policy (HSMP), was selected to become chair-elect of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA).

Schweikhart was elected to the position of chair-elect by the AUPHA membership at the annual business meeting and will begin her one-year term in June 2012.

"Getting to know my colleagues in other management

programs and working together to improve healthcare management education are the two things I enjoy most about AUPHA," Schweikhart said in a recent interview.

Wickizer study on occupational healthcare delivery leads to policy change

A study on the quality and costs of workers' compensation programs by Ohio State University researcher Thomas Wickizer, PhD, MPH, and his former colleagues at the University of Washington has resulted in a new law in the state of Washington that reorganizes how occupational care is delivered.

Ohio and Washington are among a handful of states that have the same organization of their workers' compensation programs. Wickizer believes similar reform efforts could benefit Ohio and states with similar programs.

The final results of the study were published in the December 2011 issue of the journal *Medical Care*, and showed that the outcomes for workers' compensation patients were improved by paying providers additional financial incentives and coordinating care management. This, in turn, reduces costs and the number of disability days patients need.

Gov. Chris Gregoire signed SB 5801 in March 2011 that directs the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries to create a statewide network for providers who treat injured workers. It is expected to save \$218 million over the next four years.

Study links mother-toddler relationship to obesity

The quality of the emotional relationship between a mother and her young child could affect the potential for that child to be obese during adolescence, a new study suggests.

Researchers analyzed national data detailing relationship



Sharon Schweikbart



Sarah Anderson

characteristics between mothers and their children during their toddler years. The lower the quality of the relationship in terms of the child's emotional security and the mother's sensitivity, the higher the risk that a child would be obese at age 15 years, according to the analysis.

Among those toddlers who had the lowest-quality emotional relationships with their mothers, more than a quarter were obese as teens, compared to 13 percent of adolescents who had closer bonds with their mothers in their younger years.

Sarah Anderson, assistant professor of epidemiology, was lead author.

The study appears online and is scheduled for publication in the January 2012 issue of the journal *Pediatrics*.

This research was supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Health. Co-authors included Ohio State College of Public Health Dean Stanley Lemeshow, and graduate student Rachel Gooze and Robert Whitaker, professor of public health and pediatrics, both at Temple University.

By Emily Caldwell and Carrie Benseler

Partnerships offer international experiences for students and faculty

Ohio State's College of Public Health is building partnerships in India and China.

The college now has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Fudan University in Shanghai to promote education and research in biostatistics.

This partnership will advance methodology in biostatistics used for applied research in public health and medical areas and provide training opportunities for students in all of the college's academic programs.

Dean Stan Lemeshow traveled to Shanghai in April to present a seminar at a ceremony where the official plaque commemorating the joint program was unveiled.

In addition, the college is exploring a possible partnership with Shanghai Municipal Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Over winter break, Dean Lemeshow and two other public health faculty members traveled to India to teach short courses in biostatistics and epidemiology at Manipal University.

Approximately 100 students attended. Many of the students were public health professionals working in India.

The courses, taught by Lemeshow, Associate Professor



Plaque commemorating partnership with Fudan University

Amy Ferketich and Professor Haikady Nagaraja, covered measuring morbidity and mortality, logistic regression analysis, and designing clinical trials.

The college is exploring a possible partnership with Manipal, which could include faculty research and educational opportunities for students.

Student news



Brian Needham



Sarah Krygowski

Needham earns ACHE, Schweitzer honors

Brian R. Needham, a Master of Business Administration/Master of Health Administration student in the Division of Health Services Management and Policy, recently won first place in the graduate division of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) 2012 Richard J. Stull Essay Competition in Healthcare Management for his essay titled, “The truth about patient experience: what we can learn from other industries and how three P’s can improve health outcomes, strengthen brands, and delight customers.”

The purpose of the essay competition is to stimulate and demonstrate the ability of future healthcare executives to identify and describe important issues and developments in their chosen profession.

He was also selected for a 2012 Albert Schweitzer Fellowship. His service project is to enhance existing urban gardening efforts with a wellness program designed for low-income residents on Columbus’ Near East Side.

The MHA program director is Sharon Schweikhart, PhD, MBA, associate professor. Needham’s academic advisor is Paula Song, PhD, assistant professor, Division of Health Services Management and Policy.

Krygowski named Outstanding Health Educator

Public health alumna Sarah Krygowski (MPH ‘08, CPH, CHES) is the recipient of the Ohio Society for Public Health Education (Ohio SOPHE) 2011 Outstanding Health Educator award.

The annual award recognizes outstanding achievement in the field of health education and was presented to Krygowski at a recent society meeting.

Krygowski is the SPARK program coordinator at the Center for Injury Research and Policy at The Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus. Her research project, SPARK (Safe Play Areas for Ross County Kids), aims to decrease play-related injuries on playgrounds and farms among young kids in rural areas.

Krygowski is working to improve the safety of playgrounds, develop educational materials about playground and farm safety, and collaborate with community groups to promote safe play. The project is funded by a grant from the Central Benefits Health Care Foundation.

“I was very honored to receive the Ohio SOPHE Health Educator of the Year Award, and I plan to continue working hard to keep kids safe from injury,” Krygowski said.



Liesel Seryak (left) and Maggie Bornhorst (right) at the ISES conference.

Seryak and Bornhorst receive ISES awards

Two environmental health students recently received prestigious honors from the International Society for Exposure Science (ISES).

Liesel Seryak, doctoral candidate in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences, recently received the DGUV/BGFA award for Young Exposure Scientists from the ISES. The award, which recognizes superior doctoral students working in the field of environmental health, was presented to her at the society’s annual meeting in Baltimore.

The DGUV (Deutsche Gesetzliche Unfallversicherung) is an association of accident insurance institutions. Its



Master of Health Administration and graduate students participate in a class simulation using stuffed animal toys as patients.

members insure more than 70 million people against the consequences of occupational, school and commuting accidents and occupational diseases.

Seryak's dissertation research centers on investigating exposure to bisphenol A (BPA) in women who are pregnant and those of reproductive age. More broadly, her research interests include the influence of endocrine disruptors on maternal and child health and development and the ethics of reporting individual results to participants in environmental health and exposure studies.

Maggie Bornhorst, a Master of Public Health student specializing in Environmental Health Sciences, received second place in the student poster competition of more than 50 posters for her submission entitled "Space and Time Patterns of Traffic-Related Air Pollution on Campus to Inform Exposure and Risk for Transportation and Parking Planning at The Ohio State University.

Teddy bears teach grad students a lesson

Professor Sharon Schweikhart's Operations Management for Health Services Organizations class (PUBHHMP880) recently participated in a simulation that applied lean operations principles to redesign a chemotherapy clinic (named the Justin Beaver Clinic) with a goal of improving throughput, decreasing waiting time and improving safety by reducing errors.

Sally Ceselski, MS, CPHQ, senior quality manager and Charles Borden, MBA, associate executive director of quality & patient safety both from the James Cancer Hospital, helped facilitate the scenario. The James uses lean principles and the DMAIC improvement process to engage its staff in process redesign.

Schweikhart's class includes Master of Health Administration students, as well as graduate students from various colleges at Ohio State: Nursing, Pharmacy, Engineering and Business. This was the first time a process simulation was used in Schweikhart's class.

"The students really enjoy this kind of active learning and were able to relate many of the concepts we discussed in class to the simulation," said Schweikhart, associate professor, Division of Health Services Management and Policy and Master of Health Administration program director.

An assortment of stuffed animals represented patients, and students moved them through the typical workflow in a hospital from check-in to discharge.

The DMAIC improvement process is a data-driven improvement cycle used for improving, optimizing and stabilizing business processes and designs. DMAIC is an abbreviation of the five improvement steps: Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve and Control.

"Lean operations principles are being used to simplify, streamline and reduce errors in health care processes at health systems across the U.S. Students who are skilled in process analysis and application of lean principles will be able use these skills to improve health care quality and safety," said Schweikhart.

Student Spotlight on Kristen Mallory, MPH '12; view the video at go.osu.edu/malloryspotlight or scan the code to the right.





Dean Stanley Lemeshow teaches an introductory course on biostatistics in Cunz Hall.

CPH to offer B.S. degree in fall of 2012

The College of Public Health will offer a new bachelor of science in public health (BSPH) degree starting fall 2012 in conjunction with Ohio State's conversion to semesters.

The BSPH has two interdisciplinary specializations that were developed and will be delivered collaboratively with the College of Arts and Sciences: public health sociology and environmental public health. BSPH students will be required to select one interdisciplinary specialization.

The BSPH degree will focus on public health issues in the US and internationally. The program will expand learners' knowledge and comprehension of issues affecting humans worldwide. The College of Public Health will have primary administrative responsibility for the new program but will collaborate with the College of Arts & Sciences for shared governance of the overall program.

The new degree program was developed for a variety of reasons, one of which is an increased demand for highly educated and trained public health professionals. The Association of Schools of Public Health projects an impending shortage of qualified public health workers due to current employees retiring and a rising need for public health knowledge and skills. The new BSPH degree was also requested by several students who have completed the College's undergraduate minor in public health.

"To accommodate incoming undergraduate students, we will offer additional sections of existing courses and have hired a new faculty member, Gail Kaye, PhD, to serve as the program director. We have also hired an undergraduate student advisor/recruiter in our Career Services department," said Michael Bisesi, PhD, senior associate dean for academic affairs; director of the Center for Public Health Practice; and associate professor, Division of Environmental Health Sciences.

In addition to highly-qualified faculty and staff resources, BSPH students will have state-of-the-art classroom and lab facilities available for their use in the newly-renovated Cunz Hall.

"BSPH graduates will be prepared for early career, entry-level positions in public health. However, the intent is for most students to pursue the undergraduate degree as a foundation for preparation for graduate and professional studies.

"We anticipate that a popular option will be for students to pursue a dual degree and complete both their undergraduate and graduate education in five years instead of six,"

*– Michael Bisesi, PhD,
director of the Center for Public Health Practice*

We anticipate that a popular option will be for students to pursue a dual degree and complete both their undergraduate and graduate education in five years instead of six," said Bisesi.

The Ohio State University Council on Academic Affairs and the Senate have approved the proposal for the interdisciplinary BSPH degree. After review and approval by the OSU Board of Trustees, approval by the Ohio Board of Regents is anticipated.



President E. Gordon Gee and Dean Stanley Lemeshow with the 2011 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 2011 award winners were Matthew Stefanak, health commissioner, Mahoning County, General Health District Board of Health, in the Public Health Practitioner category; Karen Butler, director, Cleveland Department of Public Health, in the Public Health Community Leader category; and the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food Banks, in the Public Health Organization category.

The Champions of Public Health Awards reception was held on Oct. 14, 2011, at the new home of the College of Public Health, Cunz Hall, 1841 Neil Ave., on the main campus of The Ohio State University.

Below is more information about the 2011 winners.

Matthew Stefanak was selected for the Champion of Public Health award for his passionate advocacy in improving the health status and decreasing the environmental health risk conditions of the residents of Mahoning County since 1988.

As chief executive officer of the Mahoning County District Board of Health, he leads a public health agency with a staff of 51 providing services to the 250,000 residents of Mahoning county townships and villages and, through contracts and agreements, to three cities in the county.

He is a faculty member in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and Pharmacy and is active in many professional and civic associations.

Karen K. Butler was selected for the Champion of Public Health award for her passion for public health, her ability to bring together various partners, and ability to keep the public involved.

Butler was recently appointed as the Director of the Cleveland Department of Public Health under the leadership of Mayor Frank G. Jackson. In this capacity, she manages a \$19 million general fund budget supplemented by more than \$14 million in grant funds. Butler oversees the Divisions of Environment, Health, Air Quality and Administration, which work to ensure the health and wellbeing of Cleveland residents. Additionally, Butler serves as an adjunct instructor at Case Western Reserve University in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food Banks (OASHF) was selected for the Champion of Public Health award because it sees hunger as a public health issue and for its benefit bank that connects low and moderate income Ohioans to support programs that ultimately improve health.

The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food Banks (OASHF) was formed in 1991 to garner support for its member foodbanks and stretch dollars through consolidated purchasing of food that is then distributed to Ohio's emergency food assistance network.

OASHF is Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger, and its mission is to assist Ohio's 12 Feeding America Foodbanks in providing food and other resources to people in need and to pursue areas of common interest for the benefit of people in need.

The College is currently accepting nominations for the 2012 Champions of Public Health Awards. The deadline for submission is June 30, 2012. The nomination form is available at go.osu.edu/champsnomination or by scanning the code at right.





COLLEGE OF
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The Cunz Hall Grand Opening and Champions of Public Health Celebration was held on Friday, Oct. 14, 2011, at the south entrance of Cunz Hall. An estimated 300 faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends attended the festivities. View more photos from the event at go.osu.edu/cunzgala or scan the code at right.

