



PRESIDENT JOHN F. WILLIAMS PRESIDES AT GLOBAL HEALTH ELECTIVE CEREMONY



President John F. Williams, MD, EdD, MPH, center rear, with students, faculty, and representatives of the Alumni Fund of the College of Medicine.

John F. Williams, MD, EdD, MPH presided at the annual ceremony for fourth year medical students chosen to participate in the School of Public Health's Global Health Elective, "Health Care in Developing Countries." At the ceremony, which was held on March 14, 2013, Dr. Williams congratulated the students for being chosen for the elective, and shared with them some of his own Global Health experiences in resource poor countries.

President Williams presented each student with a certificate and a stipend. The stipends for the elective have been provided by the Alumni Fund of the College of Medicine, and the LSK Foundation. The purpose of the stipend is to assist students in defraying the costs of travel overseas. Also present at the ceremony were Dr. Ascher Mestel, former Chair of the Alumni Fund, Dr. Constance Shames, Editor of *Alumni Today*, and Ms. Jill Ditchik,

Executive Director of the Alumni Association of the College of Medicine.

Established in 1981 by Dr. Pascal James Imperato, Dean of the School of Public Health, the purpose of the elective is to enable fourth year medical students to study the health care and public health systems in resource poor countries, to provide medical service, and to engage in a cross-cultural experience. Currently, Dr. Imperato co-directs the program with Dr. Denise M. Bruno, Assistant Professor of Community Health Sciences. Dr. Bruno holds an MD from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and an MPH degree in International Health from Harvard University's School of Public Health.

Eighteen students are participating in the elective this year, bringing the total number of participants over the 33 years that the elective has been offered to 361. These students have participated in the elective at 40 host sites.



President Williams addressing the students. Dr. Denise M. Bruno, co-director of the Global Health Elective, is seated on the left. Dean Pascal James Imperato, elective co-director, is standing to the right.

This year's sites and the 18 participants are: **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** – Jessica Bloome, Karen Y. Ha, Milan B. Shah, and Sam J. Stern; **INDIA** – Rebecca L. Cohen, Khalilah S. Daley, Lee A. Grodin, Gavin H. Harris, Rachael Maciasz, Maria T. Ng, Alinea Noronha, Carly Schwartz, Matthew P. Wahl, and Gordon Wu; **TAIWAN** – Raymond Chai and Peter Liu; and **THAILAND** – Joshua McHugh and Shelly Rivas.

2012 COMMENCEMENT

Thirty-five MPH degree candidates graduated from the School of Public Health in December 2011, and May and August 2012. A number of these participated in the 2012 commencement ceremony held at Carnegie Hall on May 30, 2012.

2011-2012 GRADUATES

Master of Public Health Degree

Nekia Oriana Barrow
Jessica Bloome
Robin Lee Brehm
Nadia Camille
Rachel Brittaney Davis
Yohanna Deno
Christopher Michael Donnelly
Michael J. Duncan
Penelope Gerogakopoulos
Sueann S. Godfrey
Jamie M. K. Hanley
Amanda Lee Harris
Jay Jhaveri
Delna M. John
Ruby Kesar
George William Koutsouras
Elizabeth Jennifer Lee
Ariel Mia Matthews
Andriane Melanthiou
Steven Montag
Brenda Natal
Alinea S. Noronha
Daryush Nourbaha
Claire Nurse
Blessing Oteri Olanrewaju
Nadia Ramesh
Dov Rosenbaum
Carly Susan Schwartz
Waqas Rahim Shaikh
Sharena M. Soutar
Kaili Lucille Stevens
Matthew Conrad Thrun-Nowicki
Leone L. Waltrous
Jameela Jahaan Yusuff
Jennifer Sue Ziegler



Dean Imperato presenting the School of Public Health graduates for conferral of their degrees.



School of Public Health students assembling for Commencement.



Dr. Daniel Ehlke (L) and Dr. Dee Burton (R).



Dr. Judith H. LaRosa (L) and Dean Pascal James Imperato (R).



Dean Imperato and Dr. LaRosa congratulating Dov Rosenbaum.



(L to R) Dr. John Meyer, Dr. Mira Grice Sheff, and Dr. Aimee Afbale-Munsuz.



Dr. Tracey Wilson.

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL DONNELLY GIVES COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

Christopher Michael Donnelly, whose area of concentration was Biostatistics, gave the 2012 School of Public Health Student Address at Carnegie Hall. In his address, Chris emphasized the theme that change is at the heart of health promotion and disease prevention, and that it starts with all of us. He ended his speech by saying the following: "By accepting our degrees, we are making a promise not just for a better today, but also for a better tomorrow."



Christopher M. Donnelly speaking at Commencement on behalf of the School of Public Health graduates.

2012 GRADUATION AWARDS

Several graduating students were recognized at the Ninth Annual School of Public Health Awards Ceremony on May 21, 2012.

The Lowell E. Bellin, MD Award for Excellence in Public Health was presented to Kaili L. Stevens by Florence Kavalier, MD, MS, MPH

The Samuel Kavalier, MD and Florence Kavalier, MD Award for General Excellence in the Master of Public Health Program was presented to Andriane Melanthiou by Florence Kavalier, MD, MS, MPH.

The Arthur and Patricia Robins Award for Distinction in the Master of Public Health Practicum was presented to Alaina V. Burns by Michael A. Joseph, PhD, MPH.

The Roy Milner Seideman, MD Award for Academic Excellence in the Master of Public Health Program was presented to

Elizabeth Jennifer Lee by Michael Walsh, PhD, MPH.

The Dr. Allen D. Spiegel Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Master of Public Health Program was presented to Rachel B. Davis by Dee Burton, PhD.

The John J. Walsh, MD Award for Extraordinary Leadership in and Commitment to Improving the Health of Individuals and Communities was presented to Amanda L. Harris by Denise M. Bruno, MD, MPH.

The William Kuchler Award for Excellence in Biostatistics was presented to Christopher M. Donnelly by Michael Szarek, PhD.

The Rose Jackman Award for Community Service was presented to George W. Koutsouras by Rose M. Jackman, MPH.

TWENTY-SIX STUDENTS AWARDED THEIR MPH DEGREES WITH HONORS

Twenty-six of the 35 students who graduated in December 2011 and May and August 2012, were awarded their MPH degrees with honors. This was in recognition of their having an overall grade point average of 3.6, an outstanding field experience or special project experience, and other criteria. Those students who received their degrees with honors were:

Master of Public Health Degree with Honors

Jessica Bloome
Robin Lee Brehm
Rachel Brittany Davis
Christopher Michael Donnelly
Penelope Gerogakopoulos
Sueann S. Godfrey
Jamie M. K. Hanley
Amanda Leigh Harris
Delna M. John
Ruby Kesar
George William Koutsouras
Elizabeth Jennifer Lee
Ariel Mia Matthews
Andriane Melanthiou
Steven Montag
Alinea S. Noronha
Claire Nurse
Nadia Ramesh
Dov Rosenbaum
Carly Susan Schwartz
Waqas Rahim Shaikh
Sharena M. Soutar
Matthew Conrad Thrun-Nowicki
Leone L. Waltrous
Jameela Jahaan Yusuff
Jennifer Sue Ziegler



Dr. Florence Kavalier (R) presenting Kaili L. Stevens (L) with The Lowell E. Bellin, MD Award for Excellence in Public Health.



Dr. Florence Kavalier (R) presenting Andriane Melanthiou (L) with The Samuel Kavalier, MD and Florence Kavalier, MD Award.



Dr. Michael A. Joseph (R) presenting Alaina V. Burns (L) with The Arthur and Patricia Robins Award for Distinction in the MPH Practicum.



Dr. Michael Walsh (R) presenting Elizabeth Jennifer Lee (L) with The Roy Milner Seideman, MD Award for Academic Excellence.



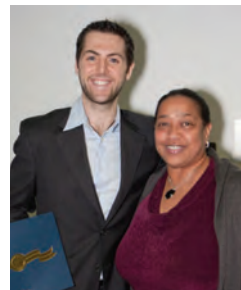
Dr. Dee Burton (R) presenting Rachel B. Davis (L) with The Dr. Allen D. Spiegel Memorial Award.



Dr. Denise M. Bruno (R) presenting Amanda L. Harris (L) with The John J. Walsh, MD Award.



Dr. Michael Szarek (R) presenting Christopher M. Donnelly (L) with The William Kuchler Award for Excellence in Biostatistics.



Nancy Victor, MHS, MPA (R) after presenting George W. Koutsouras (L) with The Rose Jackman Award for Community Service.

EIGHT MD/MPH STUDENTS RECEIVE THEIR DEGREES

Eight MD/MPH students received their MPH degrees this past year. The concurrent MD/MPH program is structured so that students complete the requirements for both degrees in a four-year period. As of 2012, fifty-three medical students have simultaneously received the MPH degree.

The eight MD/MPH students who graduated in 2012 and their concentrations are as follows:

Nekia Oriana Barrow (Community Health Sciences)
Jessica Bloome (Epidemiology)
Robin Lee Brehm (Epidemiology)
Ruby Kesar (Community Health Sciences)
Alinea S. Noronha (Health Policy and Management)
Carly Susan Schwartz (Health Policy and Management)
Waqas Rahim Shaikh (Epidemiology)
Matthew Conrad Thrun-Nowicki (Epidemiology)

All of the MD/MPH students graduated with honors.

SIXTH ANNUAL INDUCTION CEREMONY FOR DELTA OMEGA

The sixth annual induction ceremony for the SUNY Downstate Beta Iota Chapter of Delta Omega, the national public health honor society, was held on May 21, 2012 as part of the annual School of Public Health Awards Ceremony. Membership in this honorary society reflects the dedication of an individual to quality in the field of public health, and to the protection and advancement

of the public health of all peoples. Four categories of members were inducted.

Student Members:

Christopher M. Donnelly
George W. Koutsouras
Elizabeth Jennifer Lee
Andriane Melanthiou
Waqas Rahim Shaikh
Jennifer Ziegler

Faculty Member:

Denise M. Bruno, MD, MPH

Alumni Members:

Natalie Baptiste, MPH
Lauren A. Cockerham-Colas, MPH
Rabih H. Said, MD, MPH
Mollie V. Williams, MD, MPH

Honorary Member:

Maria E. Yomtov, RN, MSN



Dr. Denise M. Bruno (L) following her induction as a faculty member of Delta Omega by Dean Pascal James Imperato (R).



Natalie Baptiste, MPH (R) following her induction as an alumna member of Delta Omega by Dr. Karen Benker (L).



Maria E. Yomtov, RN, MSN (L) following her induction as an honorary member of Delta Omega by Dr. Judith H. LaRosa (R).

FACULTY PROFILES

Usha Govindarajulu, PhD, MS is Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. She received her PhD in Biostatistics from Boston University, her MS in Biostatistics from George Washington University, and her AB from Cornell University. She also did her post-doctoral work in Biostatistics at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Govindarajulu's major statistical research interests are in survival analysis, frailty models, smoothing, genetic epidemiology, and non-parametrics. Her area of medical expertise is in cardiology, allergy and immunology, radiology, and translational research. She is also a member of the American Statistical Association, and has served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Section of Statistical Computing.

Simone A. Reynolds, PhD, MPH is Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. She graduated from Randolph-Macon Woman's College (BS, Biology), New York Medical College, School of Public Health (MPH, Epidemiology), and the University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health (PhD Perinatal Epidemiology). While at the University of Pittsburgh, she was awarded a pre-doctoral fellowship as part of the Reproductive, Perinatal, and Pediatric Epidemiology T32 Training Grant, from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver - National Institute of Child and Human Development (NICHD). Her doctoral research was performed using the historical Collaborative Perinatal Project cohort (1959-1965). This work investigated fetal and placental growth differences by fetal sex among infants born to normo-tensive and pre-eclamptic women. This work provides evidence that impaired fetal growth is subtly different in the offspring of pre-eclamptic women based on fetal sex.

She previously served as the Study Coordinator for the National Children's Study, Connecticut Study Center at Yale University. The National Children's Study aims to examine the effects of the environment, as broadly defined to include factors such as air, water, diet, sound, family dynamics, community and cultural influences, and genetics on the growth, development, and health of children across the United States, following them from before birth until age 21 years.

Dr. Reynolds interests include: reproductive and perinatal epidemiology, reproductive exposures, women's health, fetal growth, pre-term birth and birth outcomes, environmental factors related to maternal health, adverse pregnancy outcomes, infant health and the subsequent life course.

Janet Rosenbaum, PhD is Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. She studies educational and economic factors in adolescent health. Her methodological expertise is in causal inference methods such as matched sampling. Her current projects include high school suspension (funded by the Spencer Foundation), community colleges (funded by the American Educational Research Association), and coerced unsafe sex and pregnancy.

Dr. Rosenbaum completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health under a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention sexually transmitted diseases training grant. She earned her PhD in health policy and statistics, her MA in statistics, and her BA in physics, all from Harvard University. Her dissertation studied virginity pledges and adolescents' inconsistent reporting of their sexual histories, and was covered by the media including *The New York Times*, National Public Radio, and Saturday Night Live's Weekend Update.

NEW MPH STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS ELECTED

The students elected their 2012-2013 Council officers in May. The new officers are:

President: Stephanie Iusim
Vice-President: Yousra Yusuf
Secretary: Diana Julie
Treasurer: Manpreet Kaur
Historian: Nicky Abdelhak
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Daniel Ehlke

The 2011-2012 officers were:

President: George Koutsouras
Vice-President: Rachel Davis
Secretary: Sueann Godfrey
Treasurer: Christopher Donnelly
Historian: Jamal Burke
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Daniel Ehlke

STUDENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Student Council of the SUNY Downstate Medical Center School of Public Health organized a successful Hurricane Sandy Food Collection Drive for the victims of the hurricane. They did so in conjunction with City Harvest, a non-profit organization that distributes food to those in need throughout New York City. They also launched a Holiday Toy Drive for children living in homeless shelters for women and children.

The Student Council presented a two-day poster display on post-partum maternal fistulas, which are common in resource poor countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. This poster display served to inform the Downstate community of the importance of this medical problem, especially among teenage girls and young women.

DR. JUDITH H. LAROSA DESIGNATED DISTINGUISHED SERVICE PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

On November 28, 2012, Dr. Judith H. LaRosa, Vice Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, was designated as Distinguished Service Professor of Public Health by President John F. Williams, MD, EdD, MPH at the annual Chancellor's Awards Ceremony. Dr. LaRosa was honored for her distinguished service nationally, state-wide, locally, and at Downstate. Prior to coming to Downstate, Dr. LaRosa served for 14 years at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), and later at the National Institute of Health's Office of Research on Women's Health.

While at the NIH, she served as a member of the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine's Committee on Assessing the Medical Risks of Human Oocyte Donation for Stem-Cell Research, as a member of the Institute of Medicine's Panel on Understanding the Basic Biology of Sex and Gender, and Chair of the Subcommittee on Sex Effects in Health and Disease. She chaired the Panel on Older Women's Health, Beijing + 5 International Women's Conference, and was a member of the First International Conference on Women, Heart Disease, and Stroke. She also served as a member of the National Institute for Nursing Research Advisory Council. In addition to her remarkable service while at Downstate, Dr. LaRosa has also carried a heavy teaching load in the School of Public Health, teaching an average of three courses per academic year. At the same time, she has been the recipient of substantial extramural research and training grants, and has authored/co-authored a large number of important



Dr. Judith H. LaRosa (front row left) and other award recipients at the Annual Chancellor's Awards Ceremony, November 28, 2012.

papers published in the peer-reviewed scientific literature.

She is a co-editor of a book, *New Dimensions in Women's Health*, now in its 6th edition. This and many of her other publications reflect her long-standing interest in and expertise in women's health.

Reflecting her standing as a respected scholar, Dr. LaRosa has served on several study sections including those of the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Defense. In addition, she has been a peer reviewer for several journals including the *American Journal of Public Health*, the *Journal of the National Medical Association*, and the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*.

At Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Dr. LaRosa served as Professor and

Chair of the Department of Community Health Sciences, and as Director of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services-funded Xavier Center of Excellence in Women's Health.

At Downstate, Dr. LaRosa has served in a variety of capacities including Deputy Director of the Master of Public Health Program, Interim Chair of the Department of Community Health Sciences, and Vice Dean for Academic and Student Affairs of the School of Public Health. In addition to carrying a heavy teaching load and advising and mentoring numerous students, Dr. LaRosa serves as a member of the Board of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Family Health Center, and has been a member of the Board of the Public Health Association of New York City, and Chair of its Committee on Membership.

THE DRS. ALICIA AND MADU RAO SCHOLARSHIP, SUNY DOWNSTATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dr. Madu Rao, MD, Professor of Pediatrics at the University Hospital of Brooklyn Asthma Center of Excellence, has had a distinguished career in pulmonary medicine with a special focus on asthma. His scientific research and subsequent publications over the years have proven extremely valuable to his patients, their families, health care providers, and communities.

Dr. Rao's deep understanding of the challenges that pediatric asthma patients face led him to establish The Madu Rao Pediatric Asthma Center of Excellence Scholarship Program in 2008. This award was designed to assist graduating high school students, afflicted with asthma, to succeed in school and life. The scholarship program is reserved for patients in the Pediatric Asthma Center of Excellence. Dr. Rao and his wife, Dr. Alicia Rao, have a firm and strong commitment to asthma prevention and treatment.

In 2007, Drs. Alicia and Madu Rao, ever cognizant of the public health implications of asthma, initiated the Drs. Alicia and Madu Rao Scholarship for Master of Public Health (MPH) and Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) students at the SUNY Downstate School of Public Health. The purpose of the scholarship is to support public health students in their efforts directed toward addressing asthma and obesity in children.

Each recipient participates in a semester-long experience of clinical

and community field work. Some field work takes place at weekend events scheduled by the Center for Community Health and Wellness. Students design and conduct a small research project related to asthma and its various risk factors. Students are provided with asthma educational opportunities at local elementary and high schools, and have opportunities to work with and educate children at the Kings County Hospital Asthma Center with Director, Dr. Diana Weaver.

Dr. Weaver is a Downstate pediatrician with a special interest in school-age children with asthma. She introduces the awardees to different aspects of asthma management, particularly the prevention of asthma associated with obesity. In a community where childhood asthma and obesity are very challenging issues, Dr. Weaver has created very innovative preventive measures that appeal to children and their families. The scholars also have the opportunity to implement these preventive actions and guide patients in next steps for asthma treatment.

To date, nine MPH and DrPH students have received the Rao Scholarship award:

2007-2008 (Natalie Baptiste, Sheena Punnapuzha); 2008-2009 (Aisha Hutchinson); 2009-2010 (Sara Hyatt, Shikha Nigam); 2010-2011 (Blessing Olanrewaju, George Koutsouras); 2012-2013 (Viola Browne, Tenya Steele).

THE DR. MAHFOUZ H. ZAKI MEMORIAL FUND

The Dr. Mahfouz H. Zaki Memorial Fund was established in 2009 in honor of Dr. Zaki, Clinical Professor of Public Health in the School of Public Health, and former Director of Public Health for Suffolk County, New York from 1974 to 1999. Dr. Zaki had a long relationship with Downstate that began in 1962, when he joined the faculty of the then Department of Environmental Medicine and Community Health. Dr. Zaki passed away on August 25, 2009 at the age of 85 years.

The Zaki Fund was created to foster educational and research activities in maternal and child health. During 2012, a series of seminars were held at Downstate, supported by the Fund.

In late 2012, Mrs. Kathy Zaki, Dr. Zaki's widow, made a ten-thousand dollar donation to the Fund. This generous donation will enable the School of Public Health to achieve its goals in the area of maternal and child health.

RESEARCH DAY AWARDS, 2013

At the Downstate Annual Research Day on April 3, 2013, 107 posters were presented. Of these, twelve were selected for travel awards. Two of these presented work by Doctor of Public Health students enrolled in the School of Public Health's Department of Community Health Sciences. These winners, their advisors, and the titles of their posters are as follows:

Susan Holman (advisor: Tracey E. Wilson, PhD): Awareness and Acceptability of Vaginal Microbiocides and Oral Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for Prevention of HIV Acquisition Among At-Risk HIV-Negative Women.

Mark Hoglund (advisor: Rebecca M. Schwartz, PhD): Mental Health in Deployed and Non-Deployed Veteran Men and Women in Comparison with Their Civilian Counterparts.

FORMER MAYOR DAVID N. DINKINS DELIVERS A BLACK HISTORY MONTH ADDRESS



Mayor David W. Dinkins (center) following his Black History Month address on February 22, 2013. On the left is Dr. Dawn Morton-Rias, Dean of the College of Health Related Professions, and on the right, Dr. Pascal James Imperato, Dean of the School of Public Health.

Former Mayor David N. Dinkins, the 106th Mayor of New York City (1985-1989), was the keynote speaker at the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality session of Downstate's Black History Month celebration. Addressing the Downstate community as well as student guests from three nearby schools, Mayor Dinkins emphasized the importance of dedication to purpose in achieving one's life goals. Speaking to the children in the audience, he encouraged them to look out for the welfare of one another, asked the older to care for the younger ones, and to deplore bullying. He spent considerable time addressing the public health problem of bullying, and encouraged the young people in the audience to avoid it.

FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSEMBLY HELD

Following the adoption of a Constitution and By Laws, the first Faculty and Professional Staff Assembly was held on November 28, 2012 under the Presiding Officer, Philippe Amstislavski, PhD, Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences. President John F. Williams and Dean Pascal James Imperato presented their reports to the Assembly.

RETREAT HELD TO PREPARE A STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN FOR THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

A half-day retreat was held on March 13, 2013 to further the process of creating a five-year strategic business plan for the School of Public Health. Those participating in the retreat, which was held in the Downstate Student Center, included faculty, staff, representatives of the Faculty and Professional Staff Assembly, and a representative of the Office of Planning. Prior to the retreat, several working groups had been established to begin the process of creating the strategic business plan. These include a Student Recruitment Working Group, a Marketing Working Group, a Research Working Group, and an Academic Working Group. Students have greatly



Dr. John D. Meyer, Chair of the Research Working Group and Chair of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, leading a discussion at the faculty and staff retreat.

contributed to the discussions of various working groups. The Strategic Business Plan covers the five-year period, 2013/2014 – 2017/2018.

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN PUBLIC HEALTH WILL BEGIN IN THE SUMMER OF 2013

Beginning in late 2012, the SUNY Downstate School of Public Health crafted a new program designed to provide a critical knowledge base for those who want to enhance their knowledge of public health. Discussions with health care professionals, community leaders, community residents, and public health leaders produced valuable information that led to the design of an Advanced Certificate Program in Public Health.

This innovative new program provides exciting opportunities for those who want to enhance their careers and gain critical knowledge and skills to address the emerging challenges related to population health. The program is designed to introduce the five key disciplines of public health, and provide an important knowledge base for individuals of different professions and backgrounds. Students in the Advanced Certificate Program will take the five public health core courses with students in the Master of Public Health Program.

This 15-credit program focuses on the key five disciplines of public health:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------|
| • Principles of Biostatistics | 3 credits |
| • Principles of Epidemiology | 3 credits |
| • Health Behavior and Risk Reduction | 3 credits |
| • Issues in Environmental Health | 3 credits |
| • Introduction to Health Policy & Management | 3 credits |
| | 15 credits |

The program will begin in the summer of 2013, and will be delivered both on-line and in the classroom. The added benefit of this program is that anyone who completes the Advanced Certificate in Public Health can then apply those courses toward a Master of Public Health degree.

TEDMED LIVE

TEDMED Live was held at the Gowanus Ballroom in Brooklyn, New York on April 20, 2013. It was the first of what organizers hope will become an annual gathering of innovators, thought leaders, and advocates from across various enterprises and entities concerned with health and health care. It was sponsored by those Downstate students who lead the Brooklyn Free Clinic. Robin L. Brehm, an MD/MPH student, and Dr. Daniel C. Ehlke, Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management in the School of Public

Health, served as co-hosts of the event.

The event, which focused on three areas, Education and Communication, Issues with Access, and Translating Evidence into Action, ran from 10:30 AM to 6:30 PM at the Gowanus Ballroom, an events venue in the Gowanus section of Brooklyn. It is estimated that some 500 people attended, many of whom were Downstate students.

There were several speakers at TEDMED Live including Jamshed Bharucha, PhD, President of Cooper Union, and a neuroscientist; Matthew Foley, MD, Medical Director of the Department of Emergency Medicine at

SUNY Downstate; Thomas McIntyre, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery at SUNY Downstate; Marjorie Cadogan, Executive Deputy Commissioner, Human Resources Administration's Office of City-wide Health Access; and Stephen Mark Goldfinger, MD, Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at SUNY Downstate.

Faculty and staff from the School of Public Health volunteered to spend the day offering attendees information about public health learning experiences at the School of Public Health. They manned a special School of Public Health table where they distrib-

2011-2012 Field Experiences, MPH and DrPH

STUDENT	TITLE	SITE/PARTNER
Afena, Stella B.	Cancer Patient Feedback Survey on Educational Needs	Minority-Based Community Clinical Oncology Program
Ali, Hassan	Readmissions for Congestive Heart Failure at UHB	University Hospital of Brooklyn
Barrow, Nekia O.	Beauticians as Lay Health Educators	Arthur Ashe Institute
Brehm, Robin L.	Organizing Sex in Medicine Week for DMC Students	Downstate Medical Center
Burke, Jamal O.	Developing a Peer-Review Process at a Federally Qualified Health Center	Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center
Chakyayil, Bobbin V.	Profile of Patient Smoking and Cessation	Downstate Medical Center
Cherian, Sheba I	Interval between Onset of Symptoms and Arrival in ER	DMC Neurology Department
Cox, Anika J.	Strengthening Collaboration among Programs for HIV, STD, TB and HBV	NYC DOHMH
Davis, Rachel B.	Qualitative Study of Women of Color with HIV	Peer Outreach Worker Engagement and Retention
Donnelly, Christopher M.	Trial Activation at Clinical Sites	Vertex Pharmaceuticals
Dua, Prachi	Creation of Student Video Contest on Colorectal Cancer	Minority-Based Community Clinical Oncology Program
Ganzman, Stan	Infection Control Quality Improvement Studies	University Hospital of Brooklyn
Georgakopoulos, Penelope	Analysis of HIV/AIDS Research Data	St. Luke's Center for Comprehensive Care
Godfrey, Sueann S.	Advocacy for Paid Sick Leave	The Human Rights Project/Urban Justice Center
Golubovskaya, Yevgeniya	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	Arthur Ashe Institute
Hanley, Jamie M.	Development of Syllabus in Public Health Ethics	Yeshiva University Center for Ethics
Jean-Baptiste, Frederique W.	Assisting Underserved Immigrant Populations with Access to Cancer Treatment	Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
John, Delna M.	Creation of Student Video Contest on Colorectal Cancer	Minority-Based Community Clinical Oncology Program
Kaur, Manpreet	Legislative Research in Occupational Health Policy	Assemblyman Rory Lancman

uted literature about the school's programs. In addition to Dr. Ehlke, who co-hosted the event, the school was represented by Dr. Aimee Afable-Munsuz, Assistant Professor of Community Health Sciences, Dr. Laura Geer, Assistant Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, and Ms. Arlene Mbonu, Staff Assistant.

TEDMED Live was affiliated with TEDMED, a national community of health care professionals and advocates that sponsor an annual conference in Washington, D.C. TEDMED, in turn, is an offshoot of TED, which sponsors talks and events across the country.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS FOR THE NEW PUBLIC HEALTH/ACADEMIC BUILDING

Excavation for the new building began in May 2013. This followed needed work on utility and water lines adjacent to the construction site. The main entrance to the Basic Sciences Building (BSB) at 450 Clarkson Avenue was sealed off on April 12, 2013 in advance of site excavation. For the duration of construction, access to the Basic Sciences Building will be through the 430 Clarkson Avenue entrance at the west end of the building, which had

been locked for many years. When the BSB was opened in 1956, the 430 entrance was primarily for medical students' use. It is adjacent to the escalators which then carried students to the upper floor teaching laboratories and to their storage lockers. Students were not then permitted to use the elevators, which were reserved for faculty and staff.

It is anticipated that the new building will be ready for occupancy in 2016.

2011-2012 Field Experiences, MPH and DrPH

STUDENT	TITLE	SITE/PARTNER
Koutsouras, George W.	Demographic Study of the Rural Population in Oworo, Ghana	Center for Global Health, Ghana
Lee, Elizabeth J.	Evaluation of Interventions to Enhance Parent-Child Interaction	Bellevue Hospital Center
Maher, Andrew D.	Recruitment of Young Injection-Drug Users for HCV study	The SWAN project
Matthews, Ariel M.	Study of Disparities in Access to Medications	NYC Rx
Meister, Lisa J.	Diagnosis and Treatment of Bacteruria in Pregnant Women	Kings County Hospital Center
Melanthiou, Andriane	Demographics of Multiple Myeloma Patients	Division of Oncology, UHB
Monahan, Zachary T.	Programmatic Support for Children at Risk	Sunset Park Promise Neighborhood
Ness, Craig R.	Building a Clinic in Lazaro Cardenas, Mexico	One Small House
Noronha, Alinea S.	Quality Improvement Programs with Hospital House Staff	Committee on Interns and Residents
Nourbaha, Daryush	Public Health Aspects of the Non-Migratory Canadian Goose Population	U.S. National Parks Service
Nurse, Claire	Organizing a Dataset on Trans-gendered youth	HEAT Program
Olanrewaju, Blessing O.	Diet and Exercise Interventions for Overweight Children with Asthma	KCHC Asthma Program
Parris, Rudolph	Health Care Disparities in Head and Neck Cancer in Brooklyn	DMC Department of ENT
Reyes, Nicole	Urban Planning and Physical Activity in Kobe	Witto Kobe Center, Japan
Rosenbaum, Dov	Analysis of Stroke Patients in Ambulatory Care	University Hospital of Brooklyn
Schwartz, Carly S.	Creation of Student Video Contest on Colorectal Cancer	Minority-Based Community Clinical Oncology Program
Shaikh, Waqas R.	Survival Rates in Melanoma Patients	Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer Center
Smith, Sloane	Compliance with Medicare Compliance Forms	University Hospital of Brooklyn
Waltrous, Leone L.	Qualitative Study of Pregnant Women and Their Providers	University Hospital of Brooklyn
Yusuff, Jameela J.	Smoking among HIV Patients	University Hospital of Brooklyn
Ziegler, Jennifer S.	Addressing Violence against Refugee Women and Girls	International Rescue Committee

GLOBAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

DR. MALIKA ISSOUFOU MAHAMADOU, FIRST LADY OF NIGER, VISITS SUNY DOWNSTATE

A delegation led by the First Lady of the Republic of Niger, Dr. Malika Issoufou Mahamadou, recently visited the SUNY Downstate Medical Center, where she met with administrators, faculty, and students of the School of Public Health. The First Lady, who holds degrees in medicine and tropical medicine, toured Downstate's facilities, and then held discussions with the leadership of the School of Public Health.

Delegation members accompanying Dr. Mahamadou included Madame Barry Bibata Niandou, Minister for the Promotion of Women and Protection of Children, and Mr. Maman S. Sidikou, Nigerien Ambassador to the United States. Madame Niandou, a distinguished

jurist, is a major figure in the fight for women's rights in Niger. Ambassador Sidikou, who presented his credentials to President Barack Obama in January 2012, previously served as an official in the Niger government, and has worked for a number of international development organizations, including UNICEF and USAID.

Dr. Pascal James Imperato, Dean of the School of Public Health, who spent six years working in Africa, including Niger, discussed the school's global health activities in the Dominican Republic, India, Thailand, and sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Mahamadou expressed interest in Downstate expanding its programs to Niger.



(L to R) First Lady, Dr. Malika Issoufou Mahamadou, Dean Imperato, and Madame Barry Bibata Niandou.

RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE NEEDS OF VETERANS

On Monday, December 3, 2012, School of Public Health students sponsored a SUNY Downstate-wide event: HONORING OUR VETERANS: Let's Meet Their Needs. The keynote speaker was Ms. Wendy McClinton, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Black Veterans for Social Justice in Brooklyn, New York.

The impetus for this event came from student interest in and investigation of the issues military service personnel returning from duty have and continue to face. Students considered the myriad issues through discussions with leading Veterans

Administration physicians, scientific literature searches, and, importantly, discussions with returning military service personnel. What emerged from their investigations was a number of critical issues that require further consideration and action. The students then crafted a session open to all SUNY Downstate faculty, students, and staff to present some of these issues and consider appropriate courses of action. The lecture hall for the event overflowed with individuals interested in this topic.

Ms. McClinton, herself a returned veteran, spoke with great eloquence

about what remains to be done to address returned service personnel issues. Her organization, Black Veterans for Social Justice, is actively engaged in working with returned service personnel, not only to address their concerns and needs, but to further delineate the challenges that they face.

Many of the returned service personnel who attended were thankful for the presentation and discussion, and expressed their strong wish for more action. The students agreed that further steps were necessary, and are planning initiatives in collaboration with the returned service personnel.

GLOBAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

NINETEEN FOURTH YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE GLOBAL HEALTH ELECTIVE OVERSEAS

Nineteen fourth year medical students participated in the spring of 2012 in the School of Public Health's Global Health Elective, "Health Care in Developing Countries." A total of 361 medical students have participated in this elective since its inception in 1980 and through 2013 in 40 resource poor countries. Funded through scholarships provided by the Alumni Fund of the College of Medicine and Dr. Sonja K. Binkhorst, these students spent from six to eight weeks in several different countries. The participating students were selected from a large number of applicants after an examination of their records, a personal interview, and discussion by a selection committee. Dr. Denise M. Bruno and Dr. Pascal James Imperato are co-directors of the elective. The students who participated in 2012 and their overseas sites were:

Jolita M. Auguste - Dominican Republic
Alanna D. Bares - Dominican Republic
Brandon T. Charles - India
Aminata Y. Cissé - Thailand
Anna R. Cruz - India
Karen M. Fernandez - India
Simon M. Fitzgerald - Dominican Republic
Jonathan F. Gong - India
Amanda L. Harris - Dominican Republic
James Hassel - Dominican Republic
Shuo (Sally) He - Taiwan
Blake T. Henderson - Dominican Republic
Andrew J. Kim - India
Yujin Lim - India
Andrew Oh - India
Eliza M. Orzylowska - Thailand
Yuriy Shepelyak - India
Steven S. Tu - India
Stephen P. Yang - Taiwan



Eliza Orzylowska (L) and Aminata Cissé (R) at the Grand Palace in Bangkok, Thailand.



Andrew Kim at St. John's Medical College, Bangalore, India.



Amanda Harris with an infant who was successfully treated for dehydration at the Robert Reid Cabral Pediatric Hospital, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

GLOBAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY HEALTH IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA



Stephanie Saetta with a staff member of the Dr. Hugo Nkabinde Clinic and children with whom they worked.

In 2012, Dr. Dee Burton, Chair of the Department of Community Health Sciences, initiated a field experience placement for SUNY Downstate MPH students in South Africa. This was done in collaboration with a South African colleague, Jan Vermulen, and a health-focused, non-governmental organization (NGO), ChoiCe Trust, in Tzaneen, Limpopo Province, South Africa. At this site, MPH students work alongside employees and volunteers of local community-based organizations to develop, deliver, and evaluate prevention and primary health care in programs in poor rural communities.

Participating Downstate MPH students are provided with travel stipends from a special fund in the Health Science Foundation at Brooklyn established by Dr. Michael Szarek, Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and Sanofi Pasteur.

In 2012, the first two MPH students completed field placements with ChoiCe Trust. These students were Stephanie Saetta and Thu Hoang. This summer,



Thu Hoang (center) prior to the start of a training session for sanitation workers in the village of Mogoboya, Limpopo Province, South Africa.

three students, Felix Ho, Kevin Purcell, and Karen Valerus, will do their field work with ChoiCe Trust.

Thu Hoang did her field experience working with the Mogoboya and Lenyenye Clinics, where she assisted in providing preventive health care. She also participated in training for community health care workers related to tuberculosis, HIV, and prenatal health care. Thu also taught Microsoft Excel and other com-

puter skills to the clinics' head of finance, and developed a questionnaire for a maternal research survey for the clinics.

Stephanie Saetta served as a member of a family health team providing outreach services through the Dr. Hugo Nkabinde Clinic. Stephanie also conducted observational research for her MPH culminating experience about the interaction of traditional medicine and antiretroviral therapy in South Africa.

GLOBAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

SONJA K. BINKHORST, MD, AN ARDENT SUPPORTER OF GLOBAL HEALTH EDUCATION FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS



Sonja K. Binkhorst, MD (center) at the 2002 Winterfest of the Women's Medical Association of New York City and the National Council on Women's Health. (L to R) Clarita Herrera, MD (Chair of the Board of the American Medical Women's Association), Lauren Schulwolf (Downstate medical student who was funded by the LSK Foundation for her Global Health Elective in Mali), Dr. Binkhorst, Emily White (Downstate medical student who was funded by the LSK Foundation for her Global Health Elective in India), and Carolyn A. Webber, MD, President of the National Council on Women's Health, and Professor of Pathology, SUNY Downstate.

Dr. Sonja K. Binkhorst passed away on February 6, 2013 in her ninety-first year. She grew up in the Netherlands, and emigrated to the United States with her family in 1939. On arriving here, she attended Cornell University from where she graduated in 1944. She later received her medical degree from the University of Amsterdam.

Dr. Binkhorst practiced medicine at Kings County Hospital for 43 years, and was on the faculty of the Department of Psychiatry at the Downstate Medical Center. She was also affiliated with the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, where she was involved in family planning programs.

Dr. Binkhorst was active in the American Medical Women's Association and the Women's Medical Association of New York City. She was a champion for human rights, democratic principles, affordable health care, and for promoting the place of women in medicine. Dr. Binkhorst was a champion of global health and for promoting the health and well-being of the poor throughout the world. She took a special interest in the peoples of Burma and

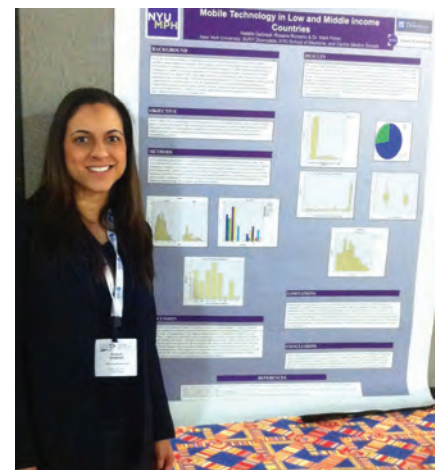
Thailand, and made several trips to Asia.

In 2000, Dr. Binkhorst learned of the Global Health Elective for fourth year medical students at Downstate, organized by the then Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health. She began to annually provide grants to women medical students so that they could participate in this international educational experience, "Health Care in Developing Countries." On their return from overseas, Dr. Binkhorst often invited the students to her home for a reception and for a Burmese dinner.

All of us in the School of Public Health are grateful to Dr. Binkhorst for her global health vision, her promotion of the place of women in medicine, and for her steadfast support of our students. She graciously provided for the continued support of the program after her passing. She is survived by Audrey Binkhorst and Noam Karstaedt, Mark and Julie Binkhorst, Gordon and Karen Binkhorst, as well as six grandchildren, Jenna, Sara, Joshua, Melanie, Jaden, and Alex. A memorial service was held on February 17th at the Asia Society.

ASSESSING MOBILE TECHNOLOGY IN HAITI

Rosaria Romano performed her MPH practice experience in Haiti under the preceptorship of Dr. Tracey E. Wilson of the Department of Community Health Sciences. She, Natalie DeGraaf, a New York University MPH student, and Dr. Mark Foran of New York University School of Medicine, carried out a needs assessment in Port au Prince, Haiti, and at the Centre Medico Clinic. Part of the survey included questions about mobile phone access and use. Their survey of 152 respondents found that phone availability is not proportional to use. This has general implications for the implementation of health-related mobile technology interventions in low and middle income countries. Rosaria and her colleagues presented the findings of this study at the Consortium of Universities for Global Health Conference in March 2013.



Rosaria Romano, MPH candidate in the Department of Community Health Sciences, and the poster on the use of m-health technologies in low and middle income countries presented at the Fourth Annual Conference of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health, March 2013, Washington D.C.

GLOBAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

REPORTS FROM OVERSEAS

Each student who participates in the School of Public Health's Global Health Elective writes a report. In these reports, they describe their experiences and discuss their observations of the health care and public health systems in the country where they performed the elective. Below are extracts from a few of the 2012 reports.

"The patients are expected to buy their own medications that they will take while they are in the hospital; they must buy and obtain their own blood test results, and they must ensure that they know every aspect of their care because they are responsible for paying each of these parts."

– **Andrew Kim**, India

"We took a field trip to the Centro Nacional de Control de Enfermedades Tropicales (CENCET) to learn about malaria surveillance. We toured the facility where they process blood samples and looked at some of the positive results under the microscope. They make surveillance maps and have teams that go door-to-door to spray for mosquitoes and teach residents how to protect themselves."

– **Amanda Harris**, Dominican Republic

"From what I observed, the health care system in Thailand is hospital dependent. Patients are encouraged to seek medical care at the hospital in the area where they reside."

– **Aminata Cissé**, Thailand

"Tzu Chi General Hospital provides medical services that embrace the values of Buddhism. It is an important aspect of the Tzu Chi Foundation,

established to contribute to social and community services, medical care, education, and charity work in Taiwan and around the world."

– **Shuo (Sally) He**, Taiwan

"My second week in pediatrics was spent in the vaccination center for children with special conditions. Most children would follow a fairly normal schedule, and it was common to see patients who were healthy but who had missed a particular round of vaccinations. Parents often sought advice on how to proceed with the rest, which followed the World Health Organization vaccination guidelines for the region."

– **Blake Henderson**, Dominican Republic

"I saw infectious diseases that are rare in the United States, such as typhoid fever, malaria, rickettsiae infections, and diphtheria. In the outpatient clinic, I encountered patients with popliteal pterygium syndrome, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, and various congenital disorders."

– **Yuriy Shepelyak**, India

"Overall, my experience abroad in the Dominican Republic was extremely positive and informative. It made me realize that I want to continue traveling abroad in the future, and hopefully my career path will allow me to incorporate such trips. I love learning about different cultures and fully immersing myself into a different lifestyle. It was interesting to see how medical care is delivered in a developing country, and I hope that I will be able to take these skills and concepts that I have learned over the past six weeks and figure out how I can deliver the best care possible to my patients."

– **Alanna Bares**, Dominican Republic

"My goal on this elective was to observe how a completely different health care system functions, how doctors in a developing country treat their patients, and to learn to be a more flexible physician. I have much more to learn, but I think I have a significant advantage to those who have not had the opportunity to work in such a different setting. I think it should be recommended to all medical students so they have this extraordinary experience to learn to be more adaptable."

– **Brandon Charles**, India

Public Health in **ACTION**

is a publication of the School of Public Health
SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Box 43
450 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203
(718) 270-1065

PublicHealth@downstate.edu

Pascal James Imperato, MD, MPH&TM – Dean

Judith H. LaRosa, PhD, RN – Vice Dean for Academic and Student Affairs

Karen Benker, MD, MPH – Associate Dean for Community Public Health Affairs

Florence Kavalier, MD, MS, MPH – Chair, Department of Health Policy and Management, and Associate Dean for Research Administration

Dee Burton, PhD – Chair, Department of Community Health Sciences

John D. Meyer, MD, MPH – Chair, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

Michael Szarek, PhD – Chair, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Leslie Schechter, MA – Assistant Dean for Administration

Lucy Grassi, BBA – Budget Director

Daniel Ilyayev, MEd – Director of Student Affairs

Dorine Cooper, BA, MA – Executive Assistant

Francine Benjamin, MS – Grants Manager

Arlene Mbonu, BA – Senior Staff Assistant

Evelyn Alleyne – Staff Assistant

Lois A. Hahn – Secretary

Bruce Kuo, Biomedical Communications – Newsletter Design