



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATES THE PEACE CORPS MASTER'S INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

The School of Public Health's Peace Corps Master's International Program (PCMIP) officially began on July 24, 2014. It is the first such program in a school of public health in New York City. This program greatly expands the school's global health reach, and holds the potential to establish numerous links to Peace Corps volunteer (PCV) sites overseas.

In September 2013, Dr. Pascal James Imperato, Dean of the School of Public Health, initiated discussions about creating the program at Downstate with representatives of the Peace Corps Office of Strategic Partnerships and the New York Regional Peace Corps office. Discussions were also held with colleagues at the SUNY Office of Global Affairs. SUNY and the Peace Corps have long had a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Master's International Program, and the Downstate SPH initiative was to become part of the overall SUNY system program. Working closely with colleagues at SUNY Global, an application was prepared and submitted to the Peace Corps.

The PCMIP permits PCVs to enter our Master of Public Health (MPH) program prior to going overseas. Their course of study is identical to those of other MPH students. Those who do not complete the MPH degree in one year will still be enrolled in the program through the required practical field experience, which they will be able to under-



take in the area of their overseas assignment. They will complete this experience under the preceptorship of SPH faculty, with whom they will maintain regular contact.

PCVs who have not completed all MPH degree requirements will return to the SPH after their PC commitment is fulfilled. The areas in which the PCMIP is being offered are Community Health Sciences, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, and Public Health.

Dr. Pascal James Imperato, Dean of the SPH, has overall responsibility for the PCMIP. Dr. Denise M. Bruno, Assistant Professor of Community Health Sciences, is serving as the PCMIP coordinator.

In commenting on the program, Dean Imperato said: "The Peace Corps Master's International Program provides an excellent opportunity for our school and the Peace Corps to collaborate in recruiting individuals with a strong interest in public health and service to the poor." He further said: "After a year with us, these volunteers will spend two years using the knowledge and skills that we have imparted to them to provide much-needed programs to those in resource and income poor countries. Their presence in these areas will establish a link for us to expand our global health activities to those in greatest need."

GLOBAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC HEALTH FOR A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Pascal James Imperato, MD, MPH&TM, MACP



President John F. Williams, MD, EdD, MPH (center rear) with students, faculty, and representatives of the Alumni Fund of the College of Medicine at the 2014 Global Health Elective Awards Ceremony.

Since its founding in 2001 as a Master of Public Health Program, the School of Public Health has had a special focus on urban and immigrant health. This is because the communities we serve live in an intensely built up urban environment where 40 percent of the population were born outside of the United States. Thus, our community outreach within Brooklyn is truly global given the diversity of origins of the people living here.

In effect, the School of Public Health engages in global health without ever leaving Brooklyn. The remarkable diversity of our students, many of whom come from immigrant families, also enhances our abilities to understand the health equity and health care equity issues within the communities we serve.

With a firm commitment to Brooklyn's global communities, the School of Public Health also engages in activities that address public health challenges found beyond the borders of the United States. These exist in many of the countries from which our students or their parents come. As a result, our students play a major role in our overseas activities. For they possess the requisite comprehensive and compas-

sionate understanding of the social and economic determinants of health and disease in these countries. These activities, which are described elsewhere in this publication, have both service and educational goals. While working with counterparts in resource scarce settings overseas, students render great service in the domains of prevention and the fostering of public health initiatives. At the same time, they come to better understand the universal role of poverty in fostering illness and health care access inequities. Their individual efforts, while often modest, have over the years been cumulative, and have collectively led to improved health for many.

The theme of the 2013 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association was "Think Global – Act Local." This theme, in effect, was a call to encourage an emphasis on local public health interventions textured by a global perspective. This perspective embraces an understanding of the social, economic, and political determinants of health and disease both locally and elsewhere. Thus, global health should not be thought of as only confined to geographic locations overseas, but rather as an approach that should also influence



President John F. Williams (R) with Dr. Denise M. Bruno (L), and Dean Pascal James Imperato (center) at the 2014 Global Health Elective Awards Ceremony.

all local public health interventions everywhere. The faculty, students, and administration of the School of Public Health have long been involved in addressing public health challenges in Brooklyn and overseas in a manner that is truly global. Recently, faculty and students sought to capture this philosophy of providing public health services and interventions to the diverse peoples we serve. They developed our current slogan which is: PUBLIC HEALTH FOR A GLOBAL COMMUNITY. This is a slogan which helps to define us and our current mission.

GLOBAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

SPH STUDENTS AND FACULTY PRESENT POSTERS AT THE FIFTH ANNUAL GLOBAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Several School of Public Health students and two faculty presented posters at the Fifth Annual Global Health Conference held in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the Consortium of Universities for Global Health, the theme of this year's conference was "Advancing Global Health in the Post-Millennium Development Goals Era." These eight goals include such diverse issues as eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, improving maternal health, promoting gender equality and empowering women, and ensuring environmental sustainability. Some of the Downstate School of Public Health posters addressed some of the Millennium Development Goals not yet met, and reflected practical field work conducted in Brooklyn.

With its focus on urban and immigrant health, the School of Public Health motto is "Public Health for a Global Community." It addresses global health issues locally among Brooklyn's culturally and ethnically diverse populations, and overseas through its various international educational and service programs. This intimate connection between the health issues of immigrants in Brooklyn and those of the countries from which they come was in strong evidence in some of the student posters.

The student posters presented included:

Erin M. Andrews: "Acculturation and Obesity in Caribbean Immigrants in the United States"

Nidhi Shree Karingula: "Cultural and Behavioral Attitudes of Hyderabadis on Diabetes" and "Evidence-Based Review of Diabetes Prevention and Management in the Developing World"

Imran Khan: "Effectiveness of Mobile Technology Health Behavior

and Chronic Disease Management Interventions: A Meta-Analysis"

Anila Thomas, Shuntelle Stephen, and Erika S. Usui: "Acting Locally to Address Global Sex Trafficking" (Dr. Karen Benker, Associate Dean for Community Health Affairs, was a co-author of this poster.)

Jinu Thomas: "Maternal Exposure to Environmental Disrupting Chemicals from Consumer Products: Comparison of Levels in a Caribbean Immigrant Population in the U.S. to National and Global Levels" (This poster was co-authored by Dr. Laura A. Geer, Assistant Professor of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences, and faculty from the College of Medicine, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology.)

Dr. Janet E. Rosenbaum, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, presented a poster titled "Graduating into Lower Risk: Chlamydia and Trichomonas among Community College Students and Community College Graduates."

GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

The SUNY Downstate School of Public Health is an active participant and leader in public health both here and abroad. As the school has grown, so has its focus. Now, five opportunities are offered to public health and health professional students to enhance their experience and knowledge of global health issues and solutions.

Advanced Certificate in Global Health

The SUNY Downstate Advanced Certificate in Global Health is focused on providing students with the necessary public health knowledge and skills to address the emerging challenges related to global



Felix Ho with children in Tzaneen, Limpopo Province, South Africa, 2013.



Kevin Purcell with his Limpopo family, Limpopo Province, South Africa, 2013.

health. The program provides students with the basics of public health. As such, it can also facilitate workforce entry into a variety of local, state, and federal health agencies or community-based organizations both nationally and globally.

The Global Health Practical Field Experience

The School of Public Health's Global Health Practical Field Experience was initiated in 2012 by Dr. Dee Burton, then the Chair of the Department of Community Health Sciences. She organized 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.

GLOBAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

Recently, Dr. LeConté J. Dill, Assistant Professor of the Department of Community Health Sciences, has assumed responsibility for overseeing the program. In this role, she chairs a faculty committee that evaluates students for selection for the program.

In 2012, the first two MPH students completed field placements with ChoiCe Trust in South Africa. These students were Stephanie Saetta and Thu Hoang. During the 2013-2014 academic year, four students participated in the program. Three of them, Felix Ho, Kevin Purcell, and Keren Valerus, did their field work in South Africa, while Nidhi Karingula did hers in India.

Demonstrating the continued growth of the program, five students will be participating in it during the 2014-2015 academic year. Dolores Moran, Desrene James, Jennifer Fasheun, and Racquel Brereton will be doing their practical field experiences in South Africa with ChoiCe Trust. Shuntelle Stephens will be doing her field experience in San Fernando, Trinidad, under the direction of Dr. Jeffrey Edwards.

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

Peace Corps Master's International Program

The School of Public Health applied to the Peace Corps to become a partner in their Peace Corps Master's International Program (PCMI). Our application received final approval by the Peace Corps on July 24, 2014. The School of Public Health will likely begin admitting students for the Peace Corps Master's International Program in the Fall Semester of 2014.

The Global Health Pathway Program

The goal of the Global Health Pathway is to enrich the education of medical students so that they are better prepared to think and to work globally in their careers. Faculty from the SPH Departments of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Community Health Sciences, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, and Health Policy and Management, along with members of the College of Medicine faculty, provide opportunities across the range of global health issues and concepts.

Elements of the Program

Those who complete the required mini-course, Global Health Today, and have participated in at least 30 hours of other activities in the Pathway, will be acknowledged on Awards Day as graduates of the Global Health Pathway.

1. Global Health Today: This 15-hour online mini-course will be available asynchronously as an elective each fall. It is mandatory for students in the Pathway and may be completed in the first or second year of medical school. Students acquire a foundation in the science and principles of global health; emphasis on prevention, social justice, the social determinants of health, collaboration as equal partners, capacity-building in low-resource areas, maternal and child health, and the role of the U.S. government.

2. Seminars and Special Conferences (0-10 hours/year): Seminars and special conferences with invited speakers on current topics in global health conferences will take place periodically throughout the academic year, and will be open to the campus community.

3. The Global Health Journal Club (0-9 hours/year): Once each month from September through May, members of the faculty and students will take turns presenting and leading a discussion on a recent journal article of special interest.

4. Mystery Case of the Month Web-Based Competition (0-9 hours/year): Each month from September through May, the Pathway will feature a new mystery case on PRIME (the educational software system). Any student may submit a solution. The website will then post the answer to the mystery with the names of the winners. The competition will be open to all students, but members of the Pathway will be expected to submit answers at least six times a year in their third and fourth years.

The Global Health in Developing Countries Elective

The School of Public Health's Elective, Global Health in Developing Countries, was initiated in 1981 by the Dean, Dr. Pascal James Imperato, who has been its course director throughout its history. Beginning in the academic year 2007-2008, Dr. Denise Bruno assumed the role of co-director of the elective with Dr. Imperato. The objectives of this elective are to provide fourth year medical students with an opportunity to observe, study, and participate in public health programs in developing countries, to study health and health care disparities in such countries, to be of service to disadvantaged populations in these countries, and to have a cross-cultural experience. To date, 375 fourth year medical students have participated in the program.

GLOBAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

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

Fourteen fourth year medical students participated in the Spring of 2014 in the School of Public Health's Elective, Global Health in Developing Countries. A total of 375 medical students have participated in this elective since its inception in 1981 and through 2014 in 41 resource scarce countries. Funded through scholarships provided by the Alumni Fund of the College of Medicine and the LSK Foundation, 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 a discussion by the Selection Committee. Dr. Pascal James Imperato and Dr. Denise M. Bruno are co-directors of the elective. The group of students who participated in 2014 and their overseas sites are:

Polina Advolodkina – India
Lusana Ahsan – Bangladesh
Robin L. Brehm – India

Drew-Anne Drapala – Dominican Republic
Eugeniya Golub – Thailand
Arton Isovski – Taiwan
Logan C. Jardine – Thailand
James W. Mangan – Mozambique
Craig R. Ness – Dominican Republic
Christian Ngo – Guatemala
Deep U. Parikh – India
Sushmitha Reddy – India
Maurice Selby – Taiwan
Matthew C. Thrun-Nowicki – India

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 2013 and 2014 reports.

2013 Participants

Jessica Bloome, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic: Perhaps the most surprising finding for me were the similarities between health care disparities in the U.S. and the Dominican Republic. Issues such as lack of access to health insurance and health care more generally, poverty, lack of education, and understaffed public hospitals are issues that are not entirely new to me as a fourth year MD/MPH student. Although these problems were at times more starkly highlighted in Santo Domingo, I believe I learned a lot that is applicable to my future career as a primary care physician and in working to end health disparities in the U.S.

Raymond Chai, Taipei, Taiwan: Taiwan's health care system is known as their National Health Insurance (NHI), which provides equal access health care to all its citizens. Instituted in 1995, the NHI covered 99% of the population by 2004. There are many positive attributes to the system. All Taiwanese citizens receive adequate health care, and there is incredible ease of access to physicians and medical resources relative to the United States. The major drawback is the burden on physicians based on patient overuse of the system. Per my interviews with Taiwanese doctors, it is quite common for patients to visit 2-3 physicians per day. Many patients also frequent clinics and emergency rooms for minor issues that do not require medical care, such as self-limiting coughs, headaches, and gastrointestinal discomforts.



Raymond Chai (right), Taipei, Taiwan, 2013.

Rebecca L. Cohen, Himachal Pradesh, India: Clinics were set up in improvised locations in remote rural villages. Large canvas tents functioned as a station, each stocked with a collapsible table, portable stools, and a supplies box consisting of basic tools such as an otoscope/ophthalmoscope, blood pressure cuff and eye chart. The daily clinics ran much like they do in the U.S. with each resident overseeing 5-6 medical students in each station while attendings would float and oversee the care across the entire clinic. Each station had an interpreter.

GLOBAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES *Reports From Overseas Continued*

Gavin H. Harris, Bangalore, India: As in the U.S., nurses run the show at St. John's Medical College Hospital; however, the doctors are so quick at seeing patients and diagnosing diseases that I have never heard of, as well as making time for teaching and questions. One thing that I immediately noticed is that doctors are much better trained at the physical exam than doctors in the U.S. They rely more on their powers of observation and clinical reasoning than blood tests, laboratory results and imaging. I believe this makes them better doctors, better able to relate and connect with their patients.

Joshua McHugh, Bangkok, Thailand: It is important to note that northern Thailand has the highest rate of melioidosis, and it is commonly in the differential diagnosis for many patients. It was interesting seeing the tuberculosis patients. Tuberculosis is less common in the United States, and I had never seen this disease in any patient I cared for as a student. However, tuberculosis is very prevalent in Thailand, along with other associated diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

Shelly Rivas, Bangkok, Thailand: During my time rotating in the GI department, I was able to see pathology that is very rarely seen in the U.S. For example, I saw TB enteritis, TB laryngitis, Gardner Syndrome (a subtype of Familial Adenomatous Polyposis), desmoidfibromatosis, thalassemias, esophageal varices, Wilson's Disease, Gaucher's Disease, and a plethora of cases of hepatic cirrhosis and hepatitis B and C. It was interesting to have conversations with the attendings as to what medications patients could be prescribed based on the cost and what the hospital could provide.

Carly Schwartz, Bangalore, India: I learned a lot about the health care system in India, saw many rare and interesting diseases that I would not have been likely to see in this country, and had the opportunity to travel around the country a bit and see some amazing cultural sites. But even more importantly, I was able to learn about a different culture and experience a different way of life. I found that while medicine and many aspects of the delivery of health care are very similar across the world, the cultural habits, mores, and customs of the country affect the workings of the hospital in a huge way.

Matthew P. Wahl, Bangalore, India: I began my time at St. John's Medical College with the community health service. This department sends groups of physicians and nurses out to some of the surrounding rural communities several times a week to run a variety of clinics. My first trip with them was to provide care for the geriatric population. We drove about one hour from the campus in downtown Bangalore to reach our destination, the entryway to a

Hindu temple. Here we set up a table, a scale, and a big box filled with medications. I learned that medical schools in India are obligated to provide services to the rural/underserved community, and that having these clinics is one way to accomplish that.



Matthew Wahl
(right), Bangalore,
India, 2013.

2014 Participants

Polina Advolodkina, Bangalore, India: After two days of eating at local restaurants, it was evident why diabetes has become a major problem in India. South India, being much more religious, is also much more frequently vegetarian. However, this "vegetarian" diet contains virtually no fresh fruit or vegetables. Instead, every single meal consists of huge portions of carbohydrates with virtually no vitamin-containing foods. Even the vegetables that are served, like okra or mushrooms, are often stewed for so long, it is questionable if they contain any nutritional components at all.



Lusana Ahsan
(right), Dhaka,
Bangladesh, 2014.

Lusana Ahsan, Dhaka, Bangladesh: I spent the majority of my time at the Longer Stay Unit at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B). There, I observed the management of diarrhea with varying presentations and etiologies: acute or persistent, invasive or noninvasive. Etiologies of diarrhea I encountered during my stay included chol-

GLOBAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES *Reports From Overseas Continued*

era, shigella, Salmonella typhi, rotavirus, etc. I also observed the management of co-morbidities that are often associated with diarrhea in children, namely pneumonia and severe acute malnutrition.

Drew-Anne Drapala, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic: The next hospital we went to was the Robert Reid pediatrics hospital. I was able to walk to the hospital as it was only a few blocks from my home-stay. Our contact was Dr. Pena, the director of infectious disease at the hospital. The first day, we were shown around the hospital by a PGY-7 resident who was very knowledgeable and personable. We got to see some things you really wouldn't see in the United States. We saw multiple cases of Dengue and a similar disease, Chikungunya, as well as many hydrocephalus patients. There were pediatric cases of HIV, and because we were on the infectious disease service, many severe cases of pneumonia.

Eugeniya Golub, Bangkok, Thailand: The attending told us a little bit more about health insurance policies. He stated that the medications are not all covered by insurance, and sometimes they have to pick second-line medications. He also told us that TB is very prevalent in Thailand, and it is the number one opportunistic infection associated with HIV. Many clinic patients had pulmonary or extra pulmonary TB infections.

Arton Isovski, Taiwan: When speaking with the medical students about the health care system, they said that people in Taiwan do not have real guidance about what types of medical care they should seek. What people end up doing is searching the internet for a famous doctor without any idea if he/she is appropriate for their condition, and making an appointment with them, which their health insurance allows them to do freely. It was also pointed out by the students that primary care is very poorly developed in Taiwan, and as a result there is a strain on specialists seeing patients that they shouldn't be seeing. Also, as a result of the lack of primary care, people are using the emergency room as their primary care provider, a problem that can be seen at our institution, but likely for different reasons.

Logan C. Jardine, Bangkok, Thailand: The outpatient department was packed with people. I asked the attending how many people came to the outpatient clinic every day. She said 1,000 come to the clinic, but that they can't see them all. I also observed procedures such as bronchoscopy for bronchial alveolar lavage (BAL). This was commonly used to identify the insulting pathogens for patients on the ward. I saw unusual presentations of TB such as miliary TB, Pott's disease, and also observed complications of TB such as complete lung atelectasis from bronchial strictures.

James W. Mangan, Mozambique: There were many dermatologic conditions that I had never seen before, including cutaneous larva migrans, scabies, filariasis, and severe disseminated rashes that extended to more than half of the patients' bodies. Due to limited diagnostic tests, the common practice was to treat unknown conditions with medications and then have the patient follow up a week or two weeks later to see how the treatment worked. It was my first time using a trial-and-error model of medicine, something I never considered as a possibility while studying medicine in the United States. Malaria was a daily finding in the clinic and had a variety of presentations. Many patients presented with the classic findings of high fever and several constitutional findings, but other patients complained only of slight abdominal pain and tested positive for malaria. My index of suspicion for ordering rapid malaria tests became extremely low.



James W. Mangan
(L) and colleagues at
the Centro de Saude
Sao Lucas, Beira,
Mozambique, 2014.

Craig R. Ness, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic: And a final observation is one of ownership over one's health. Unlike the U.S., where tests are ordered and done, often with the patient not fully understanding them, the process in the Dominican Republic felt much more deliberate and the patients seemed to understand more of the indications. A reason for this is because at each step in the diagnostic process, the patient is required to pay small amounts. He or she will depart following an appointment with instructions for which lab work needs done. The patient is then responsible for having the work done, procuring the results, identifying anything abnormal and delivering them to the physician on the follow up visit. This autonomy of the patient increased their awareness and also reduced the number of extra or unnecessary tests ordered by the physician.

Christian Ngo, Xela, Guatemala: Another interesting aspect of working in Xela was the intersectionality of gender, language, and age. For many of the geriatric female patients who came from outlying areas of Xela, Spanish was a second or third language. These patients spoke only Mam, K'iche', or other Mayan languages. In these situations, husbands or sons would typically act as trans-

GLOBAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES *Reports From Overseas Continued*

lators for the patients as there were no translators who worked at the clinic. This represented another significant barrier to treatment and left me wondering if the patient fully understood what was being explained to them. In addition to barriers in spoken language, I also encountered a high rate of illiteracy, particularly among older women and women who we saw in mobile clinics. This presented problems when dispensing medications and giving instructions on how to take medications. In these situations, I would indicate the ways to take the medication and how many to take pictographically. In addition, I would be sure to ask if there were someone in the patient's home who was literate and able to help them with their medications.



Christian Ngo (center) and colleagues at the Pop Wuj Clinic, Xela, Guatemala, 2014.

Deep U. Parikh, Bangalore, India: St. John's is a private medical college and hospital. In a conversation over lunch with one of the interns, she mentioned to me that the quality of medical care at private hospitals is better than at the government ones, which are often understaffed. Government hospitals tend to have higher mortality rates and rely more on the interns to do all sorts of tasks that they may not be qualified or trained to do. Every week we rotated through different departments of our choosing. Dr. Avita Johnson was our point of contact here, and was very flexible in accommodating our requests so that we could observe the departments we wanted to, which for me included Community Health, Psychiatry, Dermatology, Pediatrics, and especially Ophthalmology. I started my six weeks here with Community Health. Dr. Avita Johnson and the entire Community Health department were fantastic at incorporating us and having us involved. Every morning we would get on a bus or a van and we would go to various community outreach sites.

Sushmitha Reddy, Bangalore, India: What I was struck by during my inpatient experience on chest medicine was the epidemiology of COPD in India and the prevalence and treatment of tuberculosis. In the United States, the majority of COPD patients are older male chronic smokers. While certainly some of the COPD patients in Bangalore were cigarette smokers, the vast majority were men and women in their 40's and 50's who had been exposed to

smoke from the burning of biomass fuels in the home or during work in metallurgy. So many young, impoverished women were present on the Chest Medicine wards, dying of COPD and pulmonary hypertension as a result of inhaling the biomass fuels they had burned for energy in their homes while cooking, etc. I was struck by the unfairness of the situation. In India, individuals must pay for their health care costs out of pocket, and few, if any, social services exist. St. John's Medical College Hospital, dedicated to serving the poor and underserved, attempts to provide these impoverished individuals with care that is less in cost than at other hospitals in the region. For instance, I saw patients in the chest medicine outpatient clinic who were prescribed drugs that are generally available in low cost, generic form at regular pharmacies on the Indian streets. But St. John's Medical College Hospital goes even further to alleviate the financial burden on its patients by providing these drugs at even far more discounted rates at the hospital pharmacy. This is one of the ways that the hospital's health system attempts to provide low-cost care to its patient population.

Maurice Selby, Taiwan: While the practice of medicine in Taiwan is identical to the American paradigm, medical education is quite different. The medical education system and curriculum are similar to many European models. Students apply to medical school in their senior year of high school and all students take a standardized exam. Students who score the highest are then interviewed and ranked for acceptance into various medical colleges. There are 12 medical schools in Taiwan and many students attend their local medical schools. Medical students do seven years in medical school. Following graduation, students complete a post-graduate year in which they rotate in many different specialties and hone their skills as physicians. Specialty training starts after the post-graduate year. Students must pass standardized licensing exams as well as objective structured clinical exams in order to graduate. Finally, many students do rotations overseas in countries like the United States, China, Japan, countries in South America, etc. Overall the system seems to work very well for both students and faculty alike.

Matthew C. Thrun-Nowicki, Bangalore, India: In addition to asthma, I noticed a staggering number of COPD diagnoses which, in and of itself, is not alarming considering how many people smoke cigarettes in India. However, what was interesting was the fact that the majority of COPD sufferers I experienced in India were women who had never touched a cigarette in their lives! In fact, many of them were from poor rural areas where the predominant method for cooking involved burning biomass (a term that, as I later learned, referred mostly to cow dung). Chronic exposure to the fumes had literally eaten away at their lung parenchyma resulting in hyperinflation characteristic of emphysema.

FACULTY PROFILES



Barbara G. Delano, MD, MPH is Professor and Chair of the Department of Community Health Sciences in the School of Public Health. Dr. Delano

possesses a unique combination of educational and experiential credentials in both public health and clinical medicine. She has long had a strong interest in urban health and healthcare access for underserved populations, especially in the areas of hypertension, diabetes, and renal disease.

A graduate of SUNY Downstate's College of Medicine, Dr. Delano did her residency training in Internal Medicine and a fellowship in Nephrology at the Downstate Medical Center/Kings County Hospital. She was Director of the Renal Clinic at Downstate and Deputy Director of the Division of Renal Diseases for a number of years. Some of her research has focused on strategies to prevent the development and progression of end-stage renal disease.

Dr. Delano received her Master of Public Health degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry/Robert Wood Johnson School of Medicine, where she concentrated in Epidemiology. Following this, she joined the faculty of Downstate's then Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health.

Dr. Delano is the author of more than 80 articles in the peer-reviewed scientific medical literature. A nationally respected expert on home dialysis, she implemented the first home dialysis program for inner-city populations.

Dr. Delano is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the William Dock Teaching Award in Internal Medicine in 2000. The Alumni Association of Downstate's College of Medicine

awarded her the Master Teacher Award in Preventive Medicine in 2005, and the Clarence and Mary Dennis Dedicated Service Award in 2010. Dr. Delano has been listed in the Castle Connolly guide to *Top Doctors* from 1995 through the present and was selected as an "Extraordinary Woman of Downstate" in 2011. In 2009, she was inducted into the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health.



LeConté J. Dill, DrPH, MPH is Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences in the School of Public Health.

She received her BA in Sociology from Spelman College, her MPH in Community Health Sciences from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her DrPH from the University of California, Berkeley. Following her doctoral studies, Dr. Dill held appointments as a Health Policy Leadership Fellow in the Satcher Health Leadership Institute, and a Research Instructor in the Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine, both at Morehouse School of Medicine.

Dr. Dill's community-engaged research interests are focused on addressing health and social inequities among adolescents in urban neighborhoods. As a qualitative researcher, she examines the relationship between adolescent development and processes of the built environment, such as gentrification, foreclosures, and violence. Her recent work investigates how youth in distressed neighborhoods navigate through them safely. Additionally, Dr. Dill has worked in academic, non-profit, and public agencies across the country on issues related to health education, program evaluation, health policy, youth organizing, and urban planning.

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH RECEIVES A SUNY HIGH NEEDS PROGRAM GRANT FOR ITS OPEN DOORS PROPOSAL

On July 25, 2014, the School of Public Health (SPH) was informed by the SUNY Central Provost's office that its proposal to the High Needs Program had been funded. The SUNY High Needs Program supports efforts that link the university's academic programs to specific workforce needs of New York State. The principal focus of support is the expansion and/or development of professional programs that in some way are relevant to the economy of the state.

Dr. Karen Banker, Associate Professor of Health Policy and Management, and Associate Dean for Community Public Health Affairs, is the principal investigator (PI) on the SPH's grant.

Titled, Open Doors: A High Needs Program, the SPH's project has four objectives for the funding year. These are: (1) Create and implement a faculty development program in the design and management of new state-of-the-art online courses; (2) Develop six additional masters level online courses; (3) Launch four new Advanced Certificate programs with an overall online content of 67 percent; and (4) Recruit additional students into the School of Public Health.

These objectives are integral to the SPH's recently developed Strategic Business Plan. The \$74,000 in funding will provide support for a variety of innovations as well as for a student recruiter and a faculty development assistant with expertise in online teaching.

A PHOTO ALBUM DOCUMENTING THREE DECADES OF GLOBAL HEALTH OVERSEAS

Established in 1981, the School of Public Health's Global Health in Developing Countries elective has sent 375 fourth year medical students to 41 resource poor countries over a period of more than three decades. This selection of photographs reflects some of our students' service and educational experiences while overseas.



Yvonne Smith (left), Mandeville, Jamaica, 1984.



Gregory Pitaro (center) with nurses at Akosombo, Ghana, 1990.



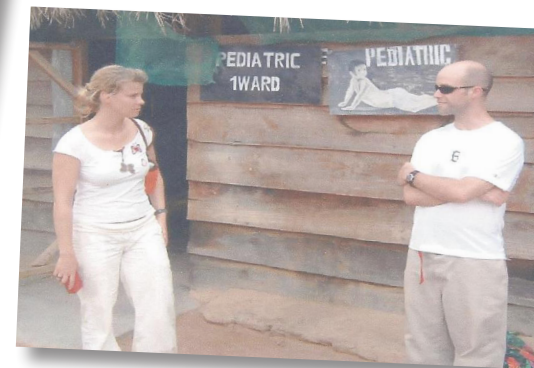
Joseph Farlo on the Thai-Mynamar border, 1992.



Adam Vella, Dominican Republic, 1997.



Photograph by Jonathan Brenner, Bangalore, India, 2003.



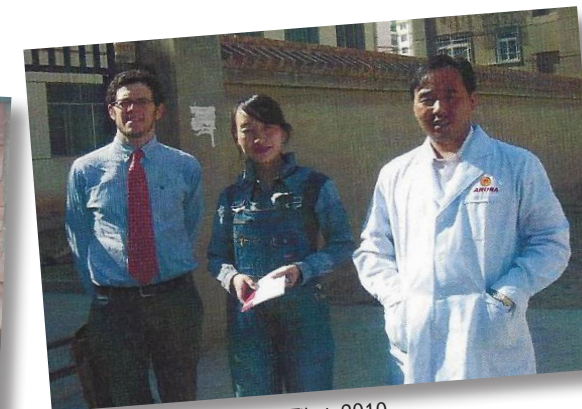
Jeremy R. Kern (right) at the Dadaab Refugee Camp, Kenya, 2004.



Julie Lew (left), Walid Zaza (right), Bangkok, Thailand, 2002.



Gloria Tsan (right), Bangkok, Thailand, 2005.



Ryan D. Kearney (left), Tibet, 2010.



Noriyuki Murakami (left), David O. Rahni (center), and Gabriel Q. Larson (right), Malawi, 2010.



Raquel V. Knowles (left) and Kenessa B. Edwards (right), Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 2011.



Karinn A. Glover, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2005.



Jeffrey Margolis, Kikuyu, Kenya, 2002.



Amita Shroff, Calcutta, India, 1998.



Photograph of a festival in India by Jonathan Brenner, India, 2003.



Bhavisha K. Dixit, Bangalore, India, 2005.

2013 AND 2014 COMMENCEMENTS



School of Public Health graduates awaiting conferral of degrees, 2013.

Thirty-three Master of Public Health degree candidates graduated from the School of Public Health in August and December 2012, and May 2013. A number of these participated in the 2013 commencement ceremony held at Carnegie Hall on May 29, 2013.

Forty Master of Public Health degree candidates graduated from the School of Public Health in August and December 2013, and May 2014. A number of these participated in the 2014 commencement ceremony held at Carnegie Hall on May 28, 2014.

2012-2013 GRADUATES

Master of Public Health Degree

Nachama Abdelhak
Hassan Ali
Gul Bahtiyar
Lucan Daniel Behnke
Julie Anne Bell
Katelyn Joyce Bennett
Jessica Bloome
Bobbie Varghese Chakyayil
Valerie Stephanie Chan
Sheba Susan Cherian
Jacqueline Marie Cleary
Rebecca Cohen
Morgan Janee Coleman

Anika Jonnelle T. Cox
Prachi Dua
Stan Ganzman
Sueann S. Godfrey
Thu A. Hoang
Frédérique Wendy Jean-Baptiste
Delna Mary John
Manpreet Kaur
Lisa Joy Meister
Zachary Thomas Monahan
Alinea Serena Noronha
Rosaria Jenni Romano

Stephanie Ann Saetta
Carly Susan Schwartz
Waqas Rahim Shaikh
Sloane Camille Baptiste Smith
Katie Lynn Todd
Ayesha Lauren Turner
Yvonne R. Venzen
Edith Y. Wong
Yousra Yusuf

SIX MD/MPH STUDENTS
RECEIVE THEIR DEGREES

Six MD/MPH students received their MPH degrees in 2013. The concurrent MD/MPH program is structured so that students complete the requirements for both degrees in a four-year period. As of 2013, fifty-four (54) medical students have concurrently received the MPH degree.

The six MD/MPH students who graduated in 2013 and their concentrations are as follows:

Jessica Bloome
(Epidemiology)
Prachi Dua
(Community Health Sciences)
Alinea S. Noronha
(Health Policy and Management)
Carly Susan Schwartz
(Health Policy and Management)
Waqas Rahim Shaikh
(Epidemiology)
Ayesha Lauren Turner
(Community Health Sciences)



Dr. Thomas A. Farley, MD, MPH, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, delivering the commencement address, 2013.



Dean Pascal James Imperato (R), Dr. Judith H. LaRosa (center), with MPH graduate (L), 2013.

TWENTY STUDENTS
AWARDED THEIR MPH
DEGREES WITH HONORS

Twenty of the 33 students who graduated in August and December 2012, and May 2013 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

August 2012

Robin Lee Brehm
Sueann S. Godfrey
Delna Mary John
Elizabeth Jennifer Lee
Matthew Conrad
Thrun-Nowicki

December 2012

Jacqueline Marie Cleary
Rebecca L. Cohen
Prachi Dua
Zachary Thomas Monahan

Stephanie Ann Saetta
Edith Y. Wong

May 2013

Nachama Abdelhak
Lucas Daniel Behnke
Katelyn Joyce Bennett
Valerie Stephanie Chan
Morgan Coleman
Rosaria Jenni Romano
Katie Lynn Todd
Ayesha Lauren Turner
Yousra Yusuf

2013 GRADUATION AWARDS

A number of graduating students were acknowledged at the Tenth Annual School of Public Health Awards Ceremony held on May 20, 2013.

The Lowell E. Bellin, MD Award for Excellence in Public Health was presented to **Rosaria Jenni Romano** by Daniel C. Ehlke, PhD, MA.

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

The Arthur and Patricia Robins Award for Distinction in the Master of Public Health Practicum was presented to **Robin Lee Brehm** by John D. Meyer, MD, MPH.

The Roy Milner Seideman, MD Award for Academic Excellence in the Master of Public Health Program was presented to **Valerie Stephanie Chan** and **Matthew Conrad Thrun-Nowicki** 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 **Zachary Thomas Monahan** 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 **Prachi Dua** by Elizabeth Helzner, PhD.

The Dr. Mahfouz H. Zaki Memorial Award for Maternal and Child Health was presented to **Yousra Yusuf** by Aimee Afable-Munsuz, PhD, MPH.



Dr. Judith H. LaRosa, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, giving welcoming remarks at the Tenth Annual Awards Ceremony, 2013.



Dr. Daniel C. Ehlke (L) presenting Rosaria Jenni Romano (R) with The Lowell E. Bellin, MD Award for Excellence in Public Health, 2013.



Dr. John D. Meyer (R) presenting Robin L. Brehm (L) with The Arthur and Patricia Robins Award for Distinction in the MPH Practicum, 2013.



Dr. Elizabeth Helzner (R) presenting Prachi Dua (L) with The John J. Walsh, MD Award for Extraordinary Leadership in and Commitment to Improving the Health of Individuals and Communities, 2013.



Dr. Aimee Afable-Munsuz (R) presenting Yousra Yusuf (L) with The Dr. Mahfouz H. Zaki Memorial Award for Maternal and Child Health, 2013.

2013 AND 2014 COMMENCEMENTS *Continued*

SEVENTH ANNUAL INDUCTION CEREMONY FOR DELTA OMEGA

The seventh annual induction ceremony for the SUNY Downstate Beta Iota Chapter of Delta Omega, the national public health honor society, was held on May 20, 2013 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 promotion and advancement of the public health of all peoples.

Four categories of members were inducted.

Student Members:

Robin Lee Brehm
Valerie Stephanie Chan
Zachary Thomas Monahan
Matthew Conrad Thrun-Nowicki
Katie Lynn Todd
Ayesha Lauren Turner
Yousra Yusuf

Faculty Member:

Michael J. Szarek, PhD

Alumni Members:

Evangeline Berrios-Colon, PharmD, MPH
Keith Chu, MD, MPH
Sharon Chu, MD, MPH
Olga Hilas, PharmD, MPH

Honorary Member:

Eli A. Friedman, MD



Dr. Keith Chu (L) and Dr. Sharon Chu (R) with Dr. Karen Benker (center) following their induction as alumni members into Delta Omega, 2013.



Matthew Conrad Thrun-Nowicki (L) after his induction as a student member into Delta Omega by Dr. Judith H. LaRosa (R), 2013.



Dr. Michael Szarek (R) addressing the audience following his induction as a faculty member into Delta Omega by Dean Pascal James Imperato (L), 2013.



Dr. Eli Friedman, Distinguished Teaching Professor of Medicine (center) after being inducted as an honorary member into Delta Omega by Dr. Moro Salifu (R), Chair of the Department of Medicine. Dr. Friedman thanked Dean Pascal James Imperato (L) for the gift of a copy of his photograph of a gerenuk antelope taken in Kenya, 2013.



Katie Lynn Todd (L) after her induction as a student member into Delta Omega by Dr. Barbara Delano (R), 2013.

2013-2014 GRADUATES

Advanced Certificate in Public Health

Nathania Ornis
Edan Sarid
Shmuel Singer

Master of Public Health Degree

Stella Bella Afenya
Kizzi A. Belfon
Rachel Berger
Colee Q. Bethany
Jamal Omari Burke
Sarah-Ann Celestin
Annelies L. De Wulf
Kay-Lise Delva
Eugeniya Golub
Ricardo Guervil
Rukhsana Hossain
Logan C. Jardine
Philip Juliano
Abhishek H. Kansara
Manpreet Kaur
Imraan Khan
Patricia Lolo
Flynn James McCullough
Lauren Meador



School of Public Health graduates being presented for conferral of their degrees, 2014.



Logan C. Jardine (L) who received both MPH and MD degrees being congratulated by Dr. Judith H. LaRosa (center) and Dean Imperato (R), 2014.

Sherline K. Montoute
Roland Rajesh Narine
Craig Rowland Ness
Tamara A. Nowakowski
Olutosin Ojubgele
Max Christopher Padgett
Melanie Ann Peters
Paolo R. Pina
Kevin Francis Purcell
Nicole Brittany Reyes
John Edward Ripollone
Russel Sharif
Marc Anthony Smith
Anila Thomas
Jinu Thomas
Matthew Conrad Thrun-Nowicki
Keren Valerus
Lincy Varghese
Daniel Harrison Wolbrom

Doctor of Public Health

Yolene Gousse, MPH
Community Health Sciences
Dissertation: Examining the Associations between Immigrant Status, HIV Status, and Social Support on Stress among HIV-Infected and At-Risk Women.



Marc Anthony Smith (L) about to be congratulated by Dr. Judith H. LaRosa (center) and Dean Pascal James Imperato, 2014.



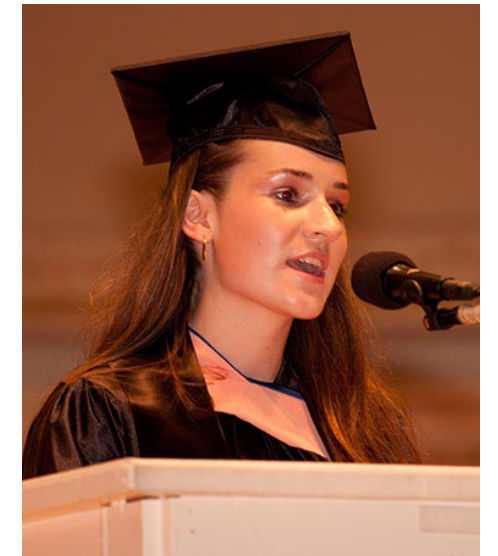
Colee Q. Bethany with her family following commencement, 2014.

KATIE LYNN TODD DELIVERS THE 2013 COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

Below are excerpts from Katie Lynn Todd's commencement address:

"On behalf of all my classmates, I want to thank all of the professors and faculty members who have prepared us for this moment. We thank you all for your wisdom and your guidance, and we look forward to making you proud as we begin our public health careers. To all of the loved ones in the crowd, we appreciate all of your generosity, love, and support throughout our journey here at Downstate. A special thank you to my wonderful and loving family that has supported me unconditionally from day one. Big congratulations to all of the SUNY Downstate students graduating today. We wish you all the best as you begin your career as health care professionals.

"We are graduating at a very challenging yet exciting time. With health care reform already under way, bright, motivated, and determined public health professionals are needed. Our President said, "Simply put, in the absence of a radical shift towards prevention and public health, we will not be successful in containing medical costs or improving the health of the American people." Let us embrace this opportunity. Change starts with each and every one of us. Do not be afraid. Downstate has fully prepared each and every one of us to take on these challenges. As we leave Carnegie Hall today, we will each begin a new chapter of our lives. While some of us will continue with our studies, others will start new careers. Wherever your degree takes you, always remember the mission of the School of Public Health and why you chose public health. Remember our commitments to changing the communities we live in, and to



Katie Lynn Todd speaking at commencement on behalf of the School of Public Health graduates, 2013.

changing the world.

"I want to congratulate each and every one of you on finishing the Master of Public Health program. I am honored and proud to stand here today as a Downstate graduate, and I hope all of you share in this pride. Thank you for the memories and friendships that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I look forward to working with all of you in the future, and wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors. Now let us work together to create effective and equitable health care systems. Let us promote safe and healthy living environments for all. Let us work to eliminate health disparities, and let us use our skills to study and ultimately prevent the growing burden of disease. Congratulations, SUNY Downstate School of Public Health Class of 2013. I am so proud to cross the stage with all of you today. Thank you."

2013 AND 2014 COMMENCEMENTS *Continued*

2014 GRADUATION AWARDS

A number of graduating students were acknowledged at the Eleventh Annual School of Public Health Awards Ceremony held on May 19, 2014.

The Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence was presented to **Craig Rowland Ness** by Pascal James Imperato, MD, MPH&TM.

The Lowell E. Bellin, MD Award for Excellence in Public Health was presented to **Annelies L. De Wulf** by Daniel C. Ehlke, PhD, MA.

The Samuel Kavalier, MD and Florence Kavalier, MD Award for General Excellence in the Master of Public Health Program was presented to **Anila Thomas** by Simone Reynolds, PhD, MPH.

The Arthur and Patricia Robins Award for Distinction in the Master of Public Health Practicum was presented to **Logan C. Jardine** by Barbara G. Delano, MD, MPH.

The Roy Milner Seideman, MD Award for Academic Excellence in the Master of Public Health Program was presented to **Max Christopher Padgett** 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 **Rukhsana Hossain** by Aimee Afable-Munsuz, PhD, MPH.

The John J. Walsh, MD Award for Extraordinary Leadership in and Commitment to Improving the Health of Individuals and Communities was presented to **Craig Rowland Ness** by LeConté J. Dill, DrPH, MPH.

The Dr. Mahfouz H. Zaki Memorial Award for Maternal and Child Health was presented to **Loriel Elizabeth Johnson** by Denise M. Bruno, MD, MPH.

The William Kuchler Award for Excellence in Biostatistics was presented to **Tamara A. Nowakowski** by Michael Szarek, PhD, and to **John Edward Ripollone** by Carl R. Rosenberg, PhD.



Dean Pascal James Imperato (L) presenting Craig Rowland Ness (R) with The Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence, 2014.



Dr. Daniel C. Ehlke (L) presenting Annelies De Wulf (R) with The Lowell E. Bellin, MD Award for Excellence in Public Health, 2014.



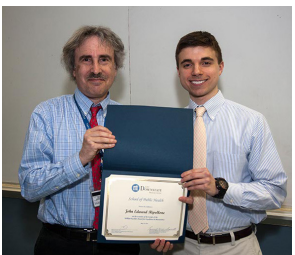
Dr. Simone Reynolds (R) presenting Anila Thomas (L) with The Samuel Kavalier, MD and Florence Kavalier, MD Award for General Excellence in the MPH Program, 2014.



Dr. Michael Walsh (R) presenting Max Christopher Padgett (L) with The Roy Milner Seideman, MD Award for Academic Excellence in the MPH Program, 2014.



Dr. Aimee Afable-Munsuz (R) presenting Rukhsana Hossain (L) with The Dr. Allen D. Spiegel Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions to the MPH Program, 2014.



Dr. Carl R. Rosenberg (L) presenting John Edward Ripollone (R) with The William Kuchler Award for Excellence in Biostatistics, 2014.



Dr. Usha Govindarajulu (L) presenting Tamara A. Nowakowski (R) with The William Kuchler Award for Excellence in Biostatistics, 2014.



Dr. LeConté J. Dill (L) presenting Craig Rowland Ness (R) with The John J. Walsh, MD Award for Extraordinary Leadership In and Commitment To Improving the Health of Individuals and Communities, 2014.

TWENTY-SIX STUDENTS AWARDED THEIR MPH DEGREES WITH HONORS

Twenty-six of the 40 students who graduated in August and December 2013, and May 2014 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:

August 2013

Julie Bell
Philip Juliano
Abhishek H. Kansara
Flynn McCullough
Paulo R. Pina
Kevin Francis Purcell

December 2014

Kizzi A. Belfon
Kaye-Lise Delva
Loriel Elizabeth Johnson
Lauren Meador
Roland Rajesh
Narine
John Edward Ripollone

May 2014

Stella Bella Afenya
Rachel Berger
Sarah-Ann Celestin
Annelies L. De Wulf
Eugeniya Golub
Yolene Gousse
Rukhsana Hossain
Craig Rowland Ness
Olutosin Ojugbele
Nathanian Ornis
Max Christopher Padgett
Melanie Ann Peters
Marc Anthony Smith
Anila Thomas

EIGHTH ANNUAL INDUCTION CEREMONY FOR DELTA OMEGA

The eighth annual induction ceremony for the SUNY Downstate Beta Iota Chapter of Delta Omega, the national public health honor society, was held on May 19, 2014 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 promotion and advancement of the public health of all peoples. Four categories of members were inducted.



Anila Thomas (R) following her induction as a student member into Delta Omega by Dr. Denise M. Bruno (L), 2014.



Dr. Carl R. Rosenberg (L) following his induction as a faculty member into Delta Omega by Dr. Michael Szarek (R), 2014.



Eugeniya Golub (R) following her induction as a student member into Delta Omega by Dr. Karen Benker (L), 2014.

Student and Alumni Members:

Kizzi A. Belfon
Annelies L. De Wulf, MD
Eugeniya Golub
Rukhsana Hossain
Logan C. Jardine
Philip Juliano
Lauren Meador
Craig Rowland Ness
Tamara A. Nowakowski
Max Christopher Padgett
Melanie Ann Peters
Paulo R. Pina, MD
Kevin Francis Purcell
John Edward Ripollone
Anila Thomas, MD

Faculty Member:

Carl R. Rosenberg, PhD

Honorary Member:

Karen Aletha Maybank, MD, MPH



Dean Pascal James Imperato (L) with Dr. Karen Aletha Maybank (R), Assistant Commissioner, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, following her induction as an honorary member of Delta Omega, 2014.



Lauren Meador (R) following her induction as a student member into Delta Omega by Dr. Judith H. LaRosa (L), 2014.

2013 AND 2014 COMMENCEMENTS Continued

KIZZI A. BELFON DELIVERS THE 2014 COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH CANDIDATES



Kizzi A. Belfon speaking at commencement on behalf of the School of Public Health graduates, 2014.

Below are excerpts from Kizzi A. Belfon's commencement address:

"In a time when 4.5 million people board a plane every day, when the kidnapping of 234 Nigerian girls generated over half a million twitter posts... In a time when the ease of globalization renders our countries borderless, the most important concept to grasp is that public health is global health. Securing the health of our world citizens is a prerequisite for the perpetuation of humanity, and it is the single goal of global health initiatives.

"Today is special, because, today, we officially join a multi-faceted field where we as public health professionals, health care professionals, and researchers add our very own piece to the puzzle in our quest to achieve this goal.

"On behalf of my graduating class, I would like to say thank you to the distinguished faculty and staff at Downstate; our parents, families, and friends who all have an equal share in our accomplishments; and to my fellow graduates who, to me, epitomize true passion. Let's go out there, follow our guts, find our pieces of the puzzle, and fully embrace that we are the ones we've been waiting for."

SIX MD/MPH STUDENTS RECEIVE THEIR DEGREES

Six MD/MPH students received their MPH degrees in 2014. The concurrent MD/MPH program is structured so that students complete the requirements for both degrees in a four-year period. As of 2014, sixty (60) medical students have concurrently received the MPH degree.

The six MD/MPH students who graduated in 2014 and their concentrations are as follows:

Robin Lee Brehm (Epidemiology)
Eugeniya Golub (Community Health Sciences)
Logan C. Jardine (Health Policy and Management)
Craig Rowland Ness (Community Health Sciences)
Max Christopher Padgett (Epidemiology)
Matthew Conrad Thrun-Nowicki (Epidemiology)

FIRST STUDENTS RECEIVE AN ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH IN MAY 2014

Three students received their Advanced Certificate in Public Health at the May 28, 2014 commencement at Carnegie Hall. The Advanced Certificate Program in Public Health was initiated in the Summer Semester of 2013. It consists of the five core MPH degree program courses: Principles of Biostatistics, Principles of Epidemiology, Health Behavior and Risk Reduction, Issues in Environmental Health, and Introduction to Health Policy and Management. Students completing this program can

apply these courses toward the Master of Public Health degree. At present, 27 students are enrolled in the program.

TENYA STEELE AND FREDERIQUE JEAN-BAPTISTE AWARDED THE RACHEL FRUCHTER MEMORIAL AWARD

Tenya Steele, MS, and Frederique Jean-Baptiste, MPH, both Doctor of Public Health students in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, were recently awarded the Rachel Fruchter Memorial Award by the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health. Tenya Steele will be developing a curriculum model to train high school students on the impact of climate change on public health, and exploring the utilization of social media as a tool to enhance health outcomes in underserved populations. Frederique Jean-Baptiste's project will focus on the development of interventions to address cardiovascular disease among formerly incarcerated individuals.

This award is named in honor of the late Dr. Rachel Gillet Fruchter, whose research was focused on the epidemiology of cervical cancer and HIV infection. Dr. Fruchter, who was Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was a tireless advocate for health care for low-income and immigrant women. She conducted some of her research on cervical cancer in collaboration with Dean Pascal James Imperato.

FLORENCE KAVALER, MD, MS, MPH RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE



Florence Kavalier, MD, MS, MPH (L), recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Science degree, Kiyomi Koizumi, MD, PhD (center), recipient of the President's Award, and Dean Imperato (R), 2014.

Dr. Florence Kavalier received an honorary Doctor of Science degree at the 2014 commencement. She is a leader in public health and a pioneer in quality assurance and health risk-management. Over her long career, she has launched initiatives to improve quality and access to care; implemented programs to root out fraud in health care; and trained large numbers of health professionals who have gone on to become leaders in public health.

Dr. Kavalier received her MD degree from the SUNY Downstate College of Medicine in 1961. Her father, Samuel Kavalier, MD, was a graduate of the Class of 1922. She also holds an MS in Biostatistics, and an MPH in Administration from Columbia University.

Dr. Kavalier began her career at the New York City Department of Health

as Director of the Narcotics Register Project. The Register was a key participant with Columbia University and The Rockefeller University in their basic research on methadone to treat addiction, which ultimately led to a nationwide, publicly-funded system of treatment programs for opioid addiction.

In 1968, Dr. Kavalier took on a new challenge at the Department of Health as Deputy Executive Director of the Medicaid Program. With 2.4 million enrollees, larger than the total enrollment of almost every state, management of New York City's Medicaid Program had national implications. Dr. Kavalier focused on standards of care and quality in the program, including fraud detection. Later, as Assistant Commissioner of Health, her pursuit of quality was not limited to Medicaid; it extended to multiple sectors of the health care industry.

Dr. Kavalier assisted the New York State Mooreland Act Commission that rooted out corruption in the nursing home industry.

Dr. Kavalier left the New York City Department of Health to become Study Director of the Milbank Memorial Fund Commission for the Study of Higher Education for Public Health. In 1975, she joined the United States Public Health Service as Captain and Director of the USPHS Hospital at Staten Island. She advanced to Assistant Surgeon General (two-star rear admiral), and had an illustrious career in the service.

In 1982, Dr. Kavalier became Professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health in Downstate's College of Medicine. In addition to teaching, she authored several books, including *Cost Containment and DRGs*, and *Risk Management in Health Care Institutions: Limiting Liability and Enhancing Care*.

In 2008, she was appointed Associate Dean for Research Administration in Downstate's new School of Public Health, sequentially serving as chair of two departments: Health Policy and Management, and Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences. Dr. Kavalier formally retired from Downstate in July 2013.



President John F. Williams (L) conferring an Honorary Doctor of Science on Dr. Florence Kavalier (center) who was hooded by Dean Imperato (R), 2014.

NEW PUBLIC HEALTH/ACADEMIC BUILDING UPDATE



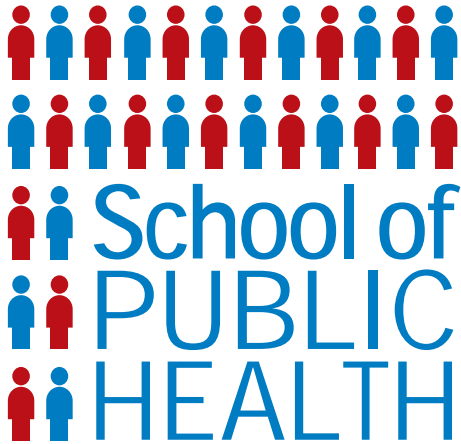
The new Public Health/Academic Building as of August 2014.

Construction of the new Public Health/Academic Building is progressing. According to the construction site managers, it is anticipated that the building will be ready for occupancy in late 2015. The photo on the left, taken recently, shows the progress of the building, located at 450 Clarkson Avenue.



Artist rendering of completed building.

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
CREATES NEW LOGO



SUNY Downstate Medical Center

In 2014, the Marketing Committee of the School of Public Health created a new logo. Comprised of rows of red and blue figures, the logo graphically

represents the school's new motto: Public Health for a Global Community. It symbolizes the school's focus on urban and immigrant health, population health, and service to our diverse communities. The members of the Marketing Committee are Dr. Aimee Afable-Munsuz (co-chair and member of the Department of Community Health Sciences), Dr. Daniel C. Ehlke (Department of Health Policy and Management), Dr. Elizabeth Helzner (co-chair and member of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics), Dr. Michael Joseph (Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics), Dr. Judith H. LaRosa (Vice Dean for Academic and Student Affairs), and Tenya Steele (Doctor of Public Health candidate).

NEW MPH STUDENT
COUNCIL OFFICERS
ELECTED

The students elected their 2014-2015 Council officers in June. The new officers are:

- President:** Erin Andrews
- Vice-President:** Camilo Werlin
- Secretary:** Kimberly Huggins
- Treasurer:** Sarah Jones
- Community Affairs/ Outreach Representative:** Shuntelle Stephen

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Daniel Ehlke

The 2013-2014 outgoing officers are:

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

FIRST WOMAN RECEIVES
THE DOCTOR OF PUBLIC
HEALTH DEGREE



Yolene Gousse being presented for her Doctor of Public Health degree.

Yolene Gousse, MPH, became the first woman to receive a Doctor of Public Health degree from the SUNY Downstate School of Public Health. Her degree was granted on the basis of the doctoral work she performed in the Department of Community Health Sciences. Throughout her doctoral work, she was mentored by Dr. Rebecca Schwartz and Dr. Denise M. Bruno. The title of her dissertation is: Examining the Associations between Immigrant Status, HIV Status, and Social Support on Stress among HIV-Infected and At-Risk Women. Dr. Gousse received her doctoral hood from Dr. Denise M. Bruno.

ANNUAL DR. MAHFOUZ H. ZAKI
MEMORIAL CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON
SEX TRAFFICKING IN NEW YORK CITY

Mahfouz H. Zaki, MD, MPH, DrPH (1924-2009) was a distinguished public health physician and former member of the faculty of the SUNY Downstate School of Public Health. He served for many years as Director of Public Health for Suffolk County.

This year's conference was held on Saturday, December 7, 2013 and was titled, Hidden in Plain Sight: Sex Trafficking in New York City. The conference was sponsored by the School of Public Health, the School of Public Health Student Council, the College of Medicine's chapter of the American Medical Women's Association, and the Occupational Therapy Program Student Council. Some 200 people attended this campus-community conference, which was open to the public. Speakers included the following: **Pascal James Imperato, MD, MPH&TM, MACP**, Dean and Distinguished Service Professor, Downstate School of Public Health; **LeConté J. Dill, DrPH, MPH**, Assistant Professor of Community Health Sciences, Downstate School of Public Health; **Song Kim, JD**, Staff Attorney, Asian American Legal Defense and Educational Fund; **Alison Clark Trenk, LMSW**, Counselor, EPIC and STAR Programs, Kings County District Attorney's Office; **Michael Ryan, JD**, Chief, Human Trafficking Unit, Kings County District Attorney's Office; and **Rachel Lloyd, MA**, Founder and CEO, Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS).

Following the presentations, workshops were held and reports from the workshops presented at a plenary session.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT CONTINUES TO RISE

In the summer of 2002, the then Master of Public Health degree program admitted its first class of twelve students, and offered four courses. In 2004, the first students received their MPH degrees from Downstate. With the establishment of the School of Public Health in April 2008, the Doctor of Public Health degree was first offered in four disciplines.

At present, the total enrollment of the school is 289 students. Forty-two (42) students are enrolled in the Doctor of Public Health program, and twenty-seven (27) in the newly launched Advanced Certificate in Public Health program. The School of Public has 260 alumni of whom two have received their Doctor of Public Health degrees.

The vast majority of alumni of the School of Public Health are employed in a variety of settings including local and state health departments, community-based organizations, health care facilities, educational institutions, and federal agencies. Most of those completing the Advanced Certificate in Public Health program enter the Master of Public Health degree program.

2012-2014 Field Experiences, MPH and DrPH

STUDENT	TITLE	SITE/PARTNER
Abdelhak, Nachama	Evaluation of the Beginning Signs of Cognitive Impairment in the Elderly	Brooklyn College
Abhyankar, Kalpita	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	New York Academy of Sciences/STEM Mentoring
Aslam, Aanam	Predictors of Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes in Inactive Lupus Patients	Hospital for Special Surgery, Rheumatology Department
Bahtiyar, Gul	Implement a Diabetes and Self-Management Program	Woodhall Medical and Mental Health Center
Behnke, Lucas	Quality Assessment of Health Information Technology	Amkai Solutions
Bell, Julie	Evaluation of Educational Resources Aimed to Combat Pre-diabetic Teens in East Harlem	Mount Sinai Department of Health Evidence and Policy
Bennett, Katelyn	Evaluation of Interventions to Improve Blood Pressure Control of Veterans	Veterans Affairs, New York Harbor Healthcare System (VA NYHHS)
Berger, Rachel	Evaluation of Syringe Exchange Programs in NYC	Boom! Health/Harm Reduction Center
Bethany, Colee Q.	Quality Assessment of Confidentiality Protocols for Handling NYC HANES Participant Data	NYC DOHMH
Boylan, Matthew	In Hospital Mortality Following Open and Closed Long Bone Fractures	DMC Department of Orthopedic Surgery
Celestin, Sarah-Ann	Quality Assessment of Food Pantry Established to Address Food Insecurity Concerns	Stony Brook University
Chan, Valerie	Quality Improvement with Physicians Performance and Opportunities to Improve Patient Care	Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center
Chawla, Jatinder M.	A Meta-Analysis on RCTS for Use in Ketamen in Depression for Supporting Research Study	Hofstra-North Shore School of Medicine/ Psychiatry
Chludzinski, Sarah Ann	Quality Assessment of Patient Re-admission into University Hospital of Brooklyn	DMC Department of Risk Management
Delva, Kaye-Lise	Quality Assessment of Documents Surrounding the Decision to Close LICH Hospital	DMC Regional Office, MSC 1258
DeWulf, Annelies	Needs Assessment on Health Care Infrastructure in the North East Region of Haiti	EMEDEx International
Dilernia, JoAnn*	Analysis of Planned Parenthood Advocacy Data	Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Dwivedi, Saurabh	Observational Study on Pneumonia Patients Admitted to Interfaith Medical Center	Interfaith Medical Center, Department of Pulmonary Medicine
Guerra, Roxana	Evaluation of Behavioral Factors that Hinder Cancer Screening Compliance	Clinical Directors Network
Hibbert, Corrine	Quality Assessment on Patient Use of Mobile Devices	Bedford-Stuyvesant Family Health Center
Hill, Bianca	A Study on Hepatitis C in Intravenous Drug Users	Washington Heights Corner Project
Ho, Felix	Programmatic Support of Home-based Health Care Services in Tzaneen	ChoiCeTrust, South Africa
Hoang, Thu	Programmatic Support of Home-based Health Care Services in Tzaneen	ChoiCeTrust, South Africa
Hoglund, Mark*	Identified Factors Affecting Bicycling Safety within Community District 14	Community Board 14
Hossain, Rukhsana	Research Effectiveness of Ketamine with Morphine for Pain Management	Maimonides Medical Center, Department of Emergency Medicine
Jardine, Logan	Quality Assessment on Trans-gendered Women of Color	HEAT
Johnson, Loriel E.	Quality Assessment on Barriers to Women’s Effective Contraceptive Use	NYC DOHMH
Joti, Pram	Quality Improvement Programs with Silvercrest Program Staff	The Silvercrest Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation
Judd, Nathan	Evaluation of Program Participation on Reducing Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome	DMC Live Light, Live Right (LLLR) Program

2012-2014 Field Experiences, MPH and DrPH

STUDENT	TITLE	SITE/PARTNER
Juliano, Philip	Programmatic Support for Work on Transportation to School Project to Inform Policy	NYC DOHMH
Kansara, Abhishek	Diet and Exercise Interventions for Overweight and Obese Veterans	Brooklyn VA Medical Center
Karingula, Nidhi Shree	Qualitative Study on Diabetic Patients in Hyderabad, India	Diabetic Clinic (Mediciti/Osmanla Hospital) INDIA
Kashem, Tania	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	The New York Academy of Sciences/STEM Mentoring
Khan, Imraan	Diabetes Prevention Programs among Latino Immigrants	DMC School of Public Health
Linnen, Jovanna	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	The New York Academy of Sciences/STEM Mentoring
Lolo, Patricia	Organize and Support Community Health Fairs in Brooklyn	DMC School of Public Health
McCullough, Flynn	Analysis of Emergency Medical Service Dispatchers and Providers in ER	KCHC Emergency Department
Meador, Lauren	Palliative Care Needs Assessment in East and Central Harlem	Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging
Mehta, Isha	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	Arthur Ashe Institute
Montoute, Sherline	Organizing Wellness Events on HIV/AIDS Prevention	Arthur Ashe Institute
Narine, Roland	Mentoring High School Students for the Kings Against Violence Initiative	Kings Against Violence Initiative (KAVI) Program
Nowakowski, Tamara	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	Arthur Ashe Institute
Ojugbele, Olutosin	Female Empowerment and Violence Prevention Interventions	Kings Against Violence Initiative (KAVI) Program
Oluwole, Sofia	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	Arthur Ashe Institute
Onagan, Frances	Transnational Study of Migration and Diabetes Risk in Filipino Immigrants	DMC
Patel, Tejal	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	New York Academy of Sciences/STEM Mentoring
Pinkhasov, Alexandr	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	New York Academy of Sciences/STEM Mentoring
Pitt, Brian	Risk Assessment of Legionellosis in Building Water System	DMC – Infection Control
Purcell, Kevin	Programmatic Support of Home-based Health Care Services in Tzaneen	ChoiCe Trust, South Africa
Ripollone, John	Study on Pesticide Contaminants in Well Water	Stamford, CT Health Dept.
Romano, Rosaria	Quality Assessment of Centre Medico Social and the Surrounding Communities	Diaspora Community Services
Scott, Janay	Quality Improvement in Promoting Cervical Cancer Screening	Bedford-Stuyvesant Family Health Center
Sharif, Russel	Surveillance of Anaphylaxis among School-going Children	NYC DOH, QUEENS
Smith, Marc	Develop Registries of Patients with Uncontrolled Hypertension	Bedford-Stuyvesant Family Health Center
Thomas, Anila	Organizing Sex Trafficking Conference for DMC Students	DMC School of Public Health
Thomas, Jinu	Research Support of Maternal Exposures to Endocrine Disrupting Compounds	DMC School of Public Health
Todd, Katie	Strengthening Collaboration among Community Organizations in Harlem	William J. Clinton Foundation
Turner, Ayesha	Mentoring High School Students for the Kings Against Violence Initiative	Kings Against Violence Initiative (KAVI) Program
Valerus, Keren	Programmatic Support for Home-based Health Care Services in Abhekwana Village	ChoiCe Trust, South Africa
Varghese, Lincy	Quality Assessment of Pap Testing Referral and Completion Rates	Bedford-Stuyvesant Family Health Center
Welder, Laura*	Creation of a Dashboard Profile of Current AIDS Client Needs	AIDS Service Center, NYC
Zaheer, Sibgha	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	New York Academy of Sciences/STEM Mentoring

STUDENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Fall 2012-13

- Sponsored winter clothing and food drives.
- Hosted study week coffee breaks in the SPH Student Lounge in December.

Spring 2013

- Public Health Week in April – The Council sponsored several speakers who presented on a range of public health topics.
- The Council co-sponsored the Brooklyn Free Clinic's TEDMed Live and the presentation on veterans' mental health organized by our Urban and Immigrant Issues class.

Fall 2013-14

- The Council organized a Halloween mixer for students and faculty on October 30th.
- The Council also supported the finals week study break in the SPH Student Lounge in December.
- The Council initiated a process of amending its Bylaws, explicitly re-establishing the group as a representative organization that, beginning in June 2014, will be comprised of seven rather than the customary four or five members. Four of the seven new members will hold officer positions (president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary), while the other three will serve as at-large outreach representatives.

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH PREPARES FOR RE-ACCREDITATION SITE VISIT

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) is the official national agency for accrediting schools and programs of public health, so designated by the federal Department of Education. The School of Public Health (SPH) is scheduled for a three-day CEPH re-accreditation site visit on November 16 through 18, 2015. Prior to then, a consultation visit by a CEPH accreditation specialist is scheduled for October 1, 2014.

The School of Public Health was first nationally accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) in 2010 for a period of five years, the maximum possible for a new school. Prior to then, the predecessor to the SPH, the Master of Public Health Program, was accredited for a five-year period in 2005.

Preparation for first-time accreditation or subsequent re-accreditation involves an 18-month-long self-study process. The purpose of this process is not only to prepare a self-study document and extensive resource file for the accreditation site visitors, but also to enable the faculty, staff, students, administrators, community and other stakeholders to closely examine the educational, service, and research activities of a school or program.

The self-study process for our school is being overseen by a Steering Committee comprised of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community members. Dr. Daniel C. Ehlke of the Department of Health Policy and Management is serving as the chair of the committee. The committee has created a total of nine sub-committees which not only include members of the parent committee, but also other stakeholders. These sub-committees include: Course Documentation, Faculty

Governance, Faculty Qualifications, Marketing and Publicity, Policies and Procedures, Student Practical Field Experience, Student Activities, Alumni Tracking, and Community Relations. The first draft of the self-study document is scheduled for completion in December 2014. Following the November 2015 site visit, the accreditors will create a report on which the SPH will have an opportunity to comment. Both the report and the school's comments will be reviewed by the CEPH Board of Directors for a re-accreditation decision in the Spring of 2016.

Public Health in **ACTION**

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