



150 ATTEND THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH EVENT OBSERVING BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY



(L to R) Dr. M. Monica Sweeney, Dr. Luis Freddy Molano, and Dr. Bissat K. Abraham.

On February 8, 2016, 150 people attended a Panel Discussion on Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Those in attendance included patients, providers, those involved in prevention and control programs, Downstate students, faculty, staff and administrators, and representatives of community groups.

M. Monica Sweeney, MD, MPH, FACP, Vice Dean for Global Engagement and Chair of

the Department of Health Policy and Management, School of Public Health, organized the event. Dr. Sweeney was formerly Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control in the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), and served on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA).

There were two other members of the panel. Bissat K. Abraham, MD, MPH, is an infectious disease specialist and former Epidemic Intelligence Service officer with the CDC, who is now Director of Clinical Operations and Provider Communications with the Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control in the DOHMH.

Luis Freddy Molano, MD, currently serves as Vice President for Infectious Diseases and Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, and

Questioning (LGBTQ) programs with the Community Healthcare Network.

The event was moderated by Judith H. LaRosa, PhD, RN, Vice Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, School of Public Health. Following an update on HIV/AIDS in New York City by Dr. Sweeney, Drs. Abraham and Molano gave presentations reflecting their respective experiences. These were followed by an informative discussion, and question and answer session.

Important New York City specific issues highlighted at the event were the elimination of neonatal HIV infection, the rise in the disease among young black men who have sex with men, the relationship between incidence and poverty, and the need for better continuing education of health care providers in eliciting sexual histories from patients in a sensitive manner.

THE DRS. ALICIA AND MADU RAO SCHOLARSHIP

Every year for the past six years, Dr. Madu Rao, Professor of Pediatrics at SUNY Downstate and a pediatric pulmonologist, and his wife, Dr. Alicia Rao, have provided a substantial scholarship for SUNY Downstate School of Public Health students. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide an excellent opportunity for Master of Public Health (MPH) and Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) students to engage

in public health field work. For the 2015-2016 academic year, the Rao Scholarship was awarded to MPH student, Caroline Dolce, and DrPH student, Nagla Bayoumi. Both are actively engaged in working with Sarita Dhuper, MD, a noted pediatrician and scientist, who is studying asthma in Brooklyn children, and the methods most effective in engaging the children and their parents in addressing asthma issues.



(L to R) Dr. Madu Rao, Caroline Dolce, Nagla Bayoumi, Dr. Aimee Afable, Dr. Karen Benker, and Dr. Judith H. LaRosa.

Successful Re-Accreditation Site Visit

The School of Public Health re-accreditation site visit by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) took place over a three-day period, November 16-18, 2015. Comprised of four members, the site visit team had full daily agendas, meeting with the school's core leadership, key people involved in the self-study process, students, faculty involved in the instructional programs for the MPH, DrPH, and Advanced Certificate in Public Health, faculty involved with research, service, and work force development, members of the Community Advisory Group, the Medical Center leadership, and those involved in student advisement and recruitment.

The site visit went extremely well, with no major issues being identified. We are looking forward to a seven-year re-accreditation decision by the Council at their June 2016 meeting.

Preparing for the site visit extended over an 18-month-long period during which the school engaged in a detailed self-study process. This self-study process

was 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 served as the chair of the committee. The committee created a total of nine sub-committees which not only included members of the parent committee, but also other stakeholders. These sub-committees included: 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 was completed in December 2014 following a CEPH Consultation Visit (standard for schools undergoing review) in October 2014. On February 15, 2015, a Draft Preliminary Self-Study Document and Resource File were circulated among faculty and staff for comment. Following modifications, a Preliminary Self-Study Document and a Resource File of 5,000 pages were sent to CEPH on June 16, 2015 for outside review. Two months later,

CEPH provided feedback from their staff and three outside reviewers. Following further edits, a Final Self-Study Document and Resource File were submitted to CEPH on October 16, 2015, a month before the scheduled site visit.

This successful site visit was made possible by the contributions of many administrators, faculty, staff, students, and Community Advisory Group members. The support of President John C. Williams and the leadership of the Medical Center were vital to this success. Ms. Leslie Schechter, Associate Dean for Administration, and her staff worked incessantly to collate vast quantities of data and information for the Self-Study Document and the Resource File over a period of 18 months prior to the site visit.

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.

Community Advisory Group Participates in the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) Re-Accreditation Site Visit



Community Advisory Group members following a recent presentation by Dr. Daniel C. Ehlke, Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management. (L to R) Mrs. Gabrielle Kersaint, Dr. Ehlke, Mr. Harvey Lawrence, Dean Imperato, Ms. Jean C. Black, and Mrs. Maha Attieh (Chair).

The School of Public Health's Community Advisory Group (CAG), chaired by Mrs. Maha Attieh, Health Program Manager of the Arab-American Family Support Center, assisted the Self-Study Steering Committee in preparing for the November 16-18, 2015 CEPH Re-Accreditation Site Visit. Members of the CAG also met with the CEPH site visit team on November 17, during which they described their role in providing advice to the administration of the School of Public Health. They also discussed their focus on skills and competencies they thought that potential employers desire in both MPH and DrPH students.

The Community Advisory Group plays a vital role in advising the School of Public Health on a variety of educational, research, and service issues.

The current members of the Group are:

Chair:

Mrs. Maha Attieh

Health Program Manager
NYState of Health IPA/Navigator
The Arab-American Family Support Center

Members:

Ms. Jean C. Black

Chairperson, Advisory Board
Bedford-Stuyvesant Family Health Center

Mrs. Gabrielle Kersaint

Executive Director
Brooklyn, Queens-Long Island Area Health Education Center

Veronica Kaninska, MS, CTRS

Recreation Manager and Volunteer Coordinator
Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation

Mr. Harvey Lawrence

Executive Vice-President
Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center

Mr. Herb Reiss

Seamen's House
Prospect Park YMCA

Faculty Meet to Discuss Proposed Changes in the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) Accreditation Criteria



Some of the faculty who participated in the September 3, 2015 meeting to discuss the proposed new CEPH accreditation criteria. (L to R) Dr. Daniel C. Ehler, Dr. Karen Benker, Dr. Leone Waltrous, and Dr. Paul Landsbergis.

On September 3, 2015, the entire faculty of the School of Public Health met to discuss the first draft of the proposed new CEPH accreditation criteria. The proposed new criteria represent a major change from the existing ones, and encompass all domains of schools and programs of public health. These include organization and decision making, mission and evaluation, resources, curriculum, faculty, community engagement, diversity, and student services.

The faculty extensively discussed the proposed changes and formulated detailed comments about them that were forwarded to CEPH for consideration for the next draft.

The second draft was issued in early 2016, and incorporated some of the suggestions made by Downstate and other schools and programs. Comments on this second draft will be incorporated into a third version that will be issued later in 2016. It is anticipated that a final set of new accreditation criteria will be issued in 2017.

Faculty And Administrators Attend 2015 Annual Meeting of The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)

Several members of the faculty and administration attended the 2015 annual meeting of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia. The focus of the meeting was *Framing the Future: A New Paradigm for Academic Public Health*. In a number of the sessions, there were in-depth discussions of the proposed new Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) proposed changes in accreditation criteria for schools and programs of Public Health. These reflect a perceived need to transform public health education to meet the epidemiologic and geographic transitions, poverty and health disparities, access and quality of care, and globalization. These require a competency-based educational model with a stronger emphasis on population health, inter-professional education, and domains based on job task analyses. The ultimate goal is to transform education in order to strengthen health systems in an interdependent world.

There are currently 56 CEPH accredited schools and 95 accredited programs of public health. These schools and pro-



Dr. Margaret A. Hamburg (L), Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and Dr. Pascal James Imperato (R) at the annual meeting of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH), 2015. Drs. Hamburg and Imperato both previously served as Commissioner of Health of New York City.



Some School of Public Health representatives at the 2015 annual meeting of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH). (L to R) Leslie Schechter, Dr. Aimee Afable, Dr. John R. Finnegan, Jr., Dean, University of Minnesota, School of Public Health and Chair of the Board of Directors of ASPPH, Dean Imperato, and Dr. Iman Hakim, Dean, University of Arizona, College of Public Health, and a member of the CEPH Council.

grams have a total enrollment of 52,971, 9,572 faculty, and some 17,411 graduates. These figures include undergraduate public health and global health education. It is currently estimated that of the 52,971 enrollees in schools and programs of public health, close to 10,000 are enrolled in undergraduate programs.

The School of Public Health was represented at the meeting by: Dean Imperato, Dr. Judith H. LaRosa, Vice Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Michael A. Joseph, Interim Chair, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, and Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Dr. Aimee Afable, Assistant Professor of Community Health Sciences, and Ms. Leslie Schechter, Associate Dean for Administration.

2016 Annual Meeting of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)

Dean Imperato attended the 2016 ASPPH annual meeting in Arlington, Virginia on March 26-29. As a member of the association's Accreditation Committee and Global Health Committee, he participated in discussions of the new draft CEPH criteria and the international movement to place global health within the more embracing framework of planetary health.

New Faculty Profiles



M. Monica Sweeney, MD, MPH, FACP is Vice Dean for Global Engagement, and Clinical Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management in the School of Public Health.

In these positions, Dr. Sweeney provides leadership for the School of Public Health's many globally-engaged teaching, service, and research activities both locally and internationally. As Chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management, she leads a department whose student enrollment is among the largest in the school's five Master of Public Health degree tracks.

Dr. Sweeney brings to her positions a comprehensive and sensitive understanding of the population health challenges present in Brooklyn and elsewhere. She has dedicated many years to addressing these challenges, and to achieving health equity and improving health care access for those who are disadvantaged.

Dr. Sweeney's most recent position was Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control in the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Prior to that time, she served as Medical Director and Vice President for Medical Affairs at the Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health Center in Brooklyn. Dr. Sweeney is the immediate past Chair of the SUNY Downstate Council, served on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA), and as President of the Medical Society of the County of Kings. She has been a member of the board of directors of several prominent organizations, and has served as Co-Chair of the Physician Advisory Council of the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute, and as President of the Clinical Directors Network.

In the fight against HIV/AIDS, Dr. Sweeney led the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's prevention and control efforts for several years.

Her service on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS resulted in new initiatives to control the disease globally.

Dr. Sweeney received her medical degree from SUNY Downstate College of Medicine, and a Master of Public Health degree in Health Services Management from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. She completed her residency training in internal medicine at Kings County Hospital Center/Downstate Medical Center, and is boarded in internal medicine.

Dr. Sweeney has served as a member of the faculty of the School of Public Health for several years and, prior to the school's establishment, as a faculty member of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health. She has also served as a member of the faculty of Downstate's Department of Medicine.

Dr. Sweeney is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including the Award for Service in Health & Health Education for Black Women of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Public Health Advocate Award from the Public Health Association of New York City, and the Leadership in Urban Medicine Award of the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health.



Lori Hoepner, DrPH, MPH is Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences. She received her DrPH in

Environmental Health Sciences from the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health (2015), her MPH in Maternal and Child Health from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine (1995), and her BA in Biology from Barnard College (1994). With over 50 co-authored publications, her research is primarily at the intersection of environmental effects and prenatal/early childhood development.

In 2015, Dr. Hoepner received Columbia University's *I. Bernard Weinstein Award for Academic Excellence in Environmental Health Sciences for the DrPH*. Her doctoral dissertation focused on the ubiquitous plasticizer bisphenol A (BPA): both its effects on (a) adipogenesis in human umbilical cord mesenchymal stem cells in a laboratory setting, and (b) childhood obesity in an urban minority birth cohort using a molecular epidemiological study design. She has extensive research experience in exposures including BPA, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), phthalates, and pesticides, as well as the outcomes of asthma, neurodevelopment, and obesity.

Her research efforts have included studies of the World Trade Center tragedy, and HIV/AIDS behavioral research. In addition, Dr. Hoepner has over 20 years of organizational and analytical data management expertise involving complex health assessment and public health research datasets. With her background in health disparities research, Dr. Hoepner has the goal of understanding the intricacies of race/ethnicity, sex, and socioeconomic status as they pertain to environmental health from a global perspective, as well as from a community-wide perspective.



Molly Tran, MD, MPH is Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences. Dr. Tran graduated from Washington

University in St. Louis (BA, Anthropology and Biology) and Washington University School of Medicine (MD, MA, Biology and Biomedical Sciences). During her medical training, she completed a Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship utilizing qualitative and semi-quantitative research methods to investigate the psychosocial aspects of being diagnosed with Chlamydia trachomatis among family planning clinic attendees. She completed her residency in Environmental and Occupational Medicine and MPH

(Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences) at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Her MPH thesis concerned the inclusion of active commuting as a way to promote physical activity in workplace wellness programming.

Dr. Tran's research interests include interventions to promote active transportation, transportation-related occupational injury, the influence of marketing and design on health-related behaviors, and the changing face of underserved occupational populations.

Dean Imperato Publishes Article on the Zika Virus Epidemic

While a fourth year medical student, Dean Imperato visited the Zika Forest in Uganda and the East African Virus Research Institute in the nearby town of Entebbe. At the time, Dr. A.J. Haddow and his colleagues at the Institute were working on the isolation of the Zika virus from *Aedes africanus* mosquitoes taken in and above the forest canopy. The article describes the Institute's early work in isolating the virus, and the virus's subsequent epidemiologic history. His article, *The Convergence of a Virus, Mosquitoes, and Human Travel in Globalizing the Zika Epidemic*, was published online in the *Journal of Community Health* 2016; 41(3):674-679.



The 120-foot-high steel mosquito tower in the Zika Forest (Photograph by Pascal James Imperato).

Faculty Awards and Activities

Michael A. Joseph, PhD, MPH, one of the first faculty members to join the SUNY Downstate School of Public Health, has been recognized by Manhattan-Staten Island Area Health Education Center, Champions of Diversity Awards Reception, with the *Champion of Diversity Award* in Public Health. Dr. Joseph, currently Interim Chair of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, teaches courses in epidemiology in the school. Among his other activities, he is the Director of the Training/Education Core of the Brooklyn Health Disparities Center. In this role, he provides under-represented undergraduates and graduate students with education and training to pursue advanced study in the area of health disparities research.

Tracey E. Wilson, PhD, Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences, received the inaugural **Alfred Stracher Faculty Recognition Award** in spring 2015. This award is given to a Downstate faculty member for achievements in mentoring and the professional development of faculty, and for ongoing research in severe illnesses. During her time as a faculty member in the School of Public Health, Dr. Wilson has been consistently funded by CDC, NIH, and other federal organizations for her research in HIV/STI prevention and treatment, and reduction in racial/ethnic and gender-based health disparities. She has utilized this funding and other opportunities to support the careers of faculty in the School of Public Health and the College of Medicine, and at other institutions locally and internationally. Dr. Stracher, for whom the award is named, was a Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, whose research influenced the course of basic and translational research in muscle function and muscle wasting, and the prospective treatment of chronic neuro-degenerative diseases.

LeConté J. Dill, DrPH, MPH, Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences, conducted a lunchtime seminar entitled, ***Soul Survivors: Mechanisms of Resilience among Urban Youth of Colour in Oakland, Atlanta & Brooklyn & Intersections with Johannesburg***, hosted by the African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS) on November 10, 2015. This seminar considered the mechanisms available to and activated by urban youth of color to access neighborhood and community networks in order to buffer the systemic factors that have historically excluded them.

As a qualitative researcher, Dr. Dill examines the relationship between adolescent development and processes of the built and social environment such as migration, residential segregation, gentrification, foreclosures, and neighborhood and sexual violence. Her current work investigates how youth in distressed neighborhoods navigate through them safely.

Usha Govindarajulu, PhD, MS, Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, is the recipient of a New York State Cardiac Dataset. She received this through a consulting agreement with Frederic S. Resnic, MD, Chair of Cardiovascular Medicine at the Lahey Clinic in Burlington, MA, in order to further develop statistical methods for learning curve research of cardiac procedures and devices. This dataset will allow proof on real-world data, and provide validity for publication of these methods. Dr. Govindarajulu had previously developed this research with Dr. Resnic at the Brigham & Women's Hospital of Boston, MA in 2011, where they worked together, and have continued this research since that time.

2014-2015 GRADUATES

Record Number of Students Graduate in 2015

A total of 101 students graduated from the School of Public Health in 2015. This is the largest graduating class in the school's history. The graduates included three Doctor of Public Health students, five MD/MPH students, 74 MPH students, and 19 Advanced Certificate in Public Health students. This brings the alumni of the school to 402. Fifty of the MPH degree candidates graduated with Honors, as did all five of the MD/MPH degree candidates. A number of the graduates and certificate recipients participated in the 2015 commencement ceremony held at Carnegie Hall on May 27, 2015.



School of Public Health graduates (standing) about to receive conferral of degrees.

2014-2015 GRADUATES

Master of Public Health Degree

Kalpita Abhyankar	Sarah Elizabeth Enteen	Nidhi Shree Karingula	Alexandr M. Pinkhasov
Isleny Almonte	Jennifer Adebimpe Fasheun	Lena Bess Kasen	Brian A. Pitt
Laura Bernadette Antoine	Emilia Hedin Fisher	Tania Kashem	Nicole Brittany Reyes
Andrew E. Anyadiegwu	Afia Esther Frimpong	Manpreet Kaur	Emmanuel F. Rosiji
Romena Ashique	Stan Ganzman	Imraan Khan	Janay Marie Scott
Aanam M. Aslam	Latoya N. Greenidge	Erica Lai	Richard Shalmiyev
Disleiry Priscilla Benitez	Ricardo Guervil	Susan Wu Law	Shmuel Singer
Colee Bethany	Jewook Ha	Jovanna Micole Linnen	Shuntelle A. Stephen
Lila Bhattarai	Mohammed Mahbub Hasan	Difaa Abdo Majrud	Marco Adam Stillo
Sayed Bhuiyan	Jeremy Alexander Herring	Nicole C. Mastrogiovanni	Britany Chasity Thomas
Racquel Alana Brereton	Corrine E. Hibbert	Nicole Ashley McLean	Jinu Thomas
Ali Mohamad Chahbar	Bianca Sade Hill	Dolores Anne Moran	Shanna-Kay T. Townsend
Pui Ying Chan	Lisel Marva Hope	Tamara A. Nowakowski	Erika S. Usui
Stacy Ann Chludzinski	Nahima Hoque	Sofia Aderonke Oluwole	Joshua Alex Waxenbaum
Sheba Daniel	Kimberly Christina Huggins	Frances Claire Chavez Onagan	Man Hing Wong
Wen Qin Deng	Islam A. Isa	Nathania Ornis	Natasha May Wu
Saurabh Dwivedi	Joelle In-Ae Jahng	P. Jacqueline Parker	Sibgha Zaheer
Rapheisha E. Edwards	Pram Joti	Tejal Patel	
Story V. Elmore-Hernandez	Saad Kazi Kamal	Diane Paul	

2014-2015 GRADUATES *Continued*

MD/MPH Degrees

Caleb Chee-Chuen Chan
 Briana Leigh Hecht
 Stephanie Iusim
 Diana Aldona Rothenstein Julie
 Isha Mehta

Doctor of Public Health Degree

Deanna Pereira Jannat-Khah
 (Epidemiology)
 Rudolph Ofiji Parris (Epidemiology)
 S. Alex Sternberg
 (Environmental & Occupational Health
 Sciences)

Advanced Certificate in Public Health Recipients

Tina Adjei-Bosompem	Carolyn Marie Koch
Jessica Akimova	Katarina Kovic
Nevin Andre Alleyne	Sasha Madonna Mayers
Reesa M. Antony	Monsurat Simmy Odeneye
Ashley Laura Azor	Audrey Marcia Plumer-
Sarah Elizabeth Enteen	Tulloch
Kaitlyn M. Esposito	David Z. Rotman
Gladys Figaro-Amisial	Rohini Pala Santharam
Karla Alicia Ortiz Garcia	Christopher James Stewart
Edith M.O. Gould	
Alecia C. Johnson	



Dr. Karen Benker (third from left) processing at commencement.



S. Alex Sternberg (L) being congratulated on the receipt of his DrPH degree by Dean Imperato (center) and Dr. Judith H. LaRosa (R). Dr. Barbara G. Delano (extreme right) prepares to hood him.



Dean Imperato (center) and Dr. Judith H. LaRosa congratulating an MPH graduate.



School of Public Health graduates and advanced certificate recipients assembling before the commencement ceremony (Photograph by Jeremy Alexander Herring, MPH, Class of 2015).



Afia Frimpong (center), an MPH graduate, with her family, in front of Carnegie Hall following the commencement ceremony.

2015 GRADUATION AWARDS



Dr. Judith H. LaRosa welcoming faculty, students, and guests to the Twelfth Annual Awards Ceremony

A number of graduating students were acknowledged at the Twelfth Annual School of Public Health Awards Ceremony held on May 18, 2015.

The U.S. Public Health Service 2015 Excellence in Public Health Award was presented to **Briana Leigh Hecht** by George A. Pourakis, MD, MPH, Lieutenant Commander, USPHS, and Pamela Sass, MD, Acting Dean, College of Medicine.

The Lowell E. Bellin, MD Award for Excellence in Public Health was presented to **Corrine E. Hibbert** by Judith H. LaRosa, PhD, RN.



Dr. Judith H. LaRosa (L) presenting Corrine E. Hibbert with The Lowell E. Bellin, MD Award for Excellence in Public Health.



Dr. Daniel C. Ehlke (L) presenting Joelle In-Ae Jahng (R) with The Samuel Kavalier, MD and Florence Kavalier, MD Award for General Excellence in the Master of Public Health Program.

The Samuel Kavalier, MD and Florence Kavalier, MD Award for General Excellence in the Master of Public Health Program was presented to **Joelle In-Ae Jahng** by Daniel C. Ehlke, PhD, MA.

The Arthur and Patricia Robins Award for Distinction in the Master of Public Health Practicum was presented to **Briana Leigh Hecht** by Karen Benker, MD, MPH.



Dr. Michael A. Joseph (L) presenting Richard Shalmiyev (R) with The Roy Milner Seideman, MD Award for Academic Excellence in the Master of Public Health Program.

The Roy Milner Seideman, MD Award for Academic Excellence in the Master of Public Health Program was presented to **Pui Ying Chan, Sarah Elizabeth Enteen, Richard Shalmiyev, and Marco Adam Stillo** by Michael A. Joseph, PhD, MPH.

The Dr. Allen D. Spiegel Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Master of Public Health Program was presented to **Kimberly Christina Huggins** by Tracey E. Wilson, PhD.

The John J. Walsh, MD Award for Extraordinary Leadership in and Commitment to Improving the Health of Individuals and Communities was presented to **Isha Mehta** by Leone L. Waltrous, MD, MPH, CLC.

The Dr. Mahfouz H. Zaki Memorial Award for Maternal and Child Health was presented to **Frances Claire Chavez Onagan** by Aimee Afable, PhD, MPH.



Dr. Aimee Afable (L) presenting Frances Claire Chavez Onagan (R) with The Dr. Mahfouz H. Zaki Memorial Award for Maternal and Child Health, 2015.



Dr. Usha Govindarajulu (L) presenting Marco Adam Stillo (R) with The William Kuchler Award for Excellence in Biostatistics.

The William Kuchler Award for Excellence in Biostatistics was presented to **Marco Adam Stillo** by Usha Govindarajulu, PhD, MS.



2015 Student Inductees into Delta Omega.

Ninth Annual Induction Ceremony for Delta Omega

The ninth annual induction ceremony for the SUNY Downstate Beta Iota Chapter of Delta Omega, the national public health honor society, was held on May 18, 2015 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 and Alumni Members:

Kalpita Abhyankar
Aanam M. Aslam
Caleb Chee-Chuen Chan
Pui Ying Chan
Wen Qin Deng
Sarah Elizabeth Enteen
Emilia Hedin Fisher
Mohammed Mahbub Hasan
Briana Leigh Hecht
Kimberly Christina Huggins
Stephanie Iusim
Joelle In-Ae Jahng

Diana Aldona Rothenstein Julie
Isha Mehta
Frances Claire Chavez Onagan
Tejal Patel
Richard Shalmiyev
Marco Adam Stillo
Joshua Alex Waxenbaum
Natasha May Wu

Faculty Member:

M. Monica Sweeney, MD,
MPH, FACP

Honorary Member:

Maha Attieh



Dean Imperato (center) with Mrs. Maha Attieh (L) and Dr. M. Monica Sweeney following their induction into Delta Omega.

Briana Hecht, MPH, Class of 2015 and MD Class of 2016 Receives the U.S. Public Health Service 2015 Excellence in Public Health Award



Lt. Cmdr. George A. Pourakis and Briana Hecht (center) with Dean Imperato and Dr. Pamela Sass, Interim Dean of the College of Medicine (L), and Christina Bloem, MD, MPH, and Stephan Rinnert, MD, of the Department of Emergency Medicine (R).

Briana Hecht was awarded the U.S. Public Health Service 2015 Excellence in Public Health Award by George A. Pourakis, MD, MPH, Lieutenant Commander, USPHS, and Pamela Sass, MD, Acting Dean, College of Medicine. The award was made at the Twelfth Annual Awards Ceremony of the School of Public Health, which sponsored Briana for this recognition. This award is annually presented by the U.S. Public Health Service to a medical student who has made outstanding contributions to public health.

Briana was honored for her outstanding dedication to addressing health and health care disparities among rural populations in the North-East Department of Haiti. She worked in Haiti with EMEDEX International, headed by Christina Bloem, MD, MPH, Director of the International Division of the Department of Emergency Medicine at SUNY Downstate. Briana provided service in an EMEDEX program known as the "Involved Citizen Project," a community-based first aid training program. The goal of this project is to train communities in the North-East Department of Haiti in first aid skills and instruction.



Mrs. Maha Attieh (L), Chair of the Community Advisory Group, and Health Program Manager of The Arab-American Family Support Center, following her induction into Delta Omega by Dr. Karen Benker (R).



Caleb Chee-Cheun Chan, an MD/MPH graduate, delivering his commencement address.

Caleb Chee-Cheun Chan Delivers the 2015 Commencement Address on Behalf of the School of Public Health Graduates

The School of Public Health re-accreditation Caleb Chee-Cheun Chan, an MD/MPH graduate, delivered the 2015 commencement address. Below are excerpts from his commencement address:

“For those of you who do not know me, I had the amazing opportunity to study in both the School of Public Health and

the College of Medicine at Downstate. Through this special experience, I was able to develop a unique perspective on the management of health. While my medical education focused on the treatment of individual patients, my public health training taught me to have a population-based approach to disease in the community. To recognize that health extends beyond a virus or bacterium, diet and exercise, and taking ones medications is essential. So too is understanding that health is impacted by relationships with those around us, the places where we live and work, and even the cultural norms of the society in which we live.

“As public health practitioners, operating on this level can appear to be a daunting task. I remember during my first public health class in Dr. Tracey Wilson’s Introduction to Health Behavior and Risk Reduction course, my classmates and I commented on how improving an entire community’s health was an impossible undertaking. And Dr. Wilson responded, ‘You can’t be cynical yet! You are just

starting!’ Afterwards, I looked back on her course. In one of the first slides, she defined public health as ‘what society does collectively to create conditions for people to be healthy.’ Collectively!

“Fellow graduates, the burden of the health of the public does not rest on the shoulders of public health practitioners alone. Rather, it is our calling to facilitate society’s approach to health. This may mean explaining the difference between a ‘hazard’ and a ‘risk,’ or creating the perfect vision statement that fits on a T-shirt. It is by going out and practicing what you have learned at Downstate, and doing it well, that we, as public health practitioners, can work to accomplish the difficult task of assuring the conditions for people to be healthy.

“On behalf of the graduates of the School of Public Health, I would like to thank the faculty and staff, and especially our parents and families. We know that it is through all your support and encouragement that this day was made possible. Congratulations to the Class of 2015 from all the schools present here!”

Shiriki K. Kumanyika, PhD, MS, MPH Receives an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree

Dr. Shiriki K. Kumanyika, the 2015 President of the American Public Health Association, received an honorary Doctor of Science degree at the 2015 Commencement. She is an internationally respected epidemiologist and thought leader in public health and disease prevention. She is a member of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group, and co-chair of the World Obesity Federation’s Section on Policy and Prevention. Dr. Kumanyika is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, and served for five years as chair of its Standing Committee on Childhood Obesity Prevention.

Dr. Kumanyika has had a close relationship with the SUNY Downstate School of Public Health since its inception as an MPH program in 2001. Dr. Kumanyika has regularly provided advice and counsel



President John F. Williams (L) congratulating Dr. Shiriki Kumanyika (R) on her receipt of an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

to Downstate’s School of Public Health, and in fact was the person who suggested that its focus not be just on urban health, but equally on immigrant health.

Dr. Kumanyika has an interdisciplinary background, and holds advanced degrees in social work, nutrition, and public health. She received her MS in social work from Columbia University, Master of

Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins University, and a PhD in human nutrition from Cornell University.

She is Emeritus Professor of Epidemiology in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine. During her tenure at Penn, she was the Associate Dean for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, and the founding director of Penn’s university-wide, interdisciplinary Master of Public Health program, serving in this role from the program’s inception in 2002 until May of 2007. She then served as senior advisor to Penn’s Center for Public Health Initiatives. She also held positions as Professor of Epidemiology in the Department of Pediatrics-Nutrition Section at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and senior scholar in the Center for Clinical

Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and was affiliated with several other Penn institutes and centers.

Dr. Kumanyika's research focuses on ways to reduce obesity and diet-related chronic disease risks, particularly in African Americans. She has led or collaborated on single- and multi-center randomized clinical trials or observational studies related to obesity, salt intake, or other aspects of diet. Several of her studies have examined culturally competent ways to promote healthy eating and physical activity in African-American children and adults in clinical or community-based settings. She is currently engaged in research collaborations that involve the use of systems science approaches to study complex public health problems.

Dr. Kumanyika was the principal investigator and director of the Penn-Cheyney EXPORT (Excellence in Partnerships for Community Outreach, Research on Health Disparities and Training) Center for Inner-City Health from 2002-2009, during which time she founded the African American Collaborative Obesity Research Network (AACORN). She continues to chair this national network, which seeks to improve the quantity, quality, and effective translation of research on weight issues in African-American communities.



Dean Imperato (L) and Dr. Shiriki K. Kumanyika (R) prior to the commencement ceremony.

RUDOLPH OFIJI PARRIS, BS, BA, MPH, DrPH **19 September 1976 – 19 June 2015**

Rudolph Ofiji Parris, 38, passed away on June 19, 2015 from complications due to sickle cell anemia. He passed away two months after successfully defending his doctoral dissertation in Epidemiology, titled: "Racial Disparities in the Use of Radical Prostatectomy for the Treatment of Localized Prostate Cancer, 2000-2012." His Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) degree was posthumously awarded in August 2015, and will be ceremonially presented to his family at the Annual Commencement on May 24, 2016 at Carnegie Hall.

Rudolph was born in Kingston, Jamaica on September 19, 1976 to Paulette Beverly Parris and the late Karl Parris. He immigrated to the United States in 1993 where he attended public schools in New York City and Stony Brook High School on Long Island. He then entered Brown University where he received a BS degree in Biology in 1998, and a BA degree in East Asian Studies in 1999. He then held various positions at Memorial Sloan Kettering and the New York Blood Center prior to becoming a Clinical Research Associate with the Research Foundation at SUNY Downstate in 2006, where he managed clinical trials. That same year, he received an MPH degree in Epidemiology from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

In 2009, he entered the Doctor of Public Health program in Epidemiology at the SUNY Downstate School of Public Health. He was not only a superb student academically, but also someone who greatly assisted the school's administration on a number of important issues.

In 2012, Rudolph became a Research/Clinical Trials Coordinator in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Pediatric Neonatology. There, he coordinated neonatal research and assisted in pediatric clinical trials directed by Dr. Jacob Aranda. He also collaborated with Dr. Jeffrey Weiss, Professor and Chair of the Department of Urology, and his colleagues on studies of prostate cancer treatment.

Early on in his doctoral work, he was struck by the racial disparities in access to treatment for early prostate cancer. He chose this as the topic of his doctoral dissertation under the preceptorship of Dr. Michael Szarek, Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

Despite his chronic illness, Rudolph traveled widely to Taiwan, Costa Rica, Trinidad, California, and Hawaii. He bore his illness with great courage and a positive outlook, which greatly impressed all who knew him.

Rudolph is survived by his wife, Joanne, her children and granddaughter, his mother Paulette Beverly Parris, and her husband David Sugarman, his grandmother Magdalene White, his siblings Phillip Parris (and family), Karen Harris (and family), Kisha (and family), Kushya (and her husband Alex), Josiah and Shafan Sugarman, his aunts, uncles, cousins (including Arlene Akinduro), his Brown University roommates, friends (including best friends Joe, Damien, and Eric), and colleagues. A memorial service was held on July 1, 2015 at the Brooklyn Tabernacle Church.

Nathan A. Boucher, DrPH, PA-C, Receptient of Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

Nathan A. Boucher, DrPH, PA, a 2015 graduate of our Downstate School of Public Health, has been awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. Nathan was an outstanding doctoral student who worked extensively as a Physician Assistant (PA), and taught PA and MPH courses at Touro College and SUNY Downstate School of Public Health.

As a student, he displayed not only exceptional academic excellence, but also a great ability to simultaneously be engaged in a variety of cross-discipline activities. He was an investigator on a number of studies and a co-investigator on Phase III clinical trials, and has worked extensively on end-of-life issues in diverse communities. He is now a post-doctoral fellow at Duke University's

Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development.

Nathan has authored several peer-reviewed articles, some of which were completed during his doctoral studies. He is first author on ten of these. He recently was the first author on an article, "A Framework for Improving Chronic Critical Illness Care," published in *Medical Care*. He has collaborated for a number of years with research leaders on original research projects as well as scholarly writing on issues related to health care delivery/policy. He has been a peer-reviewer for several academic journals, including *The Gerontologist*, the *American Journal of Public Health*, and *The Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*.

He has held or currently holds lead-

ership positions in such organizations as the American Public Health Association (APHA), Gerontological Society of America, The Public Health Association of New York City, and the New York Association for Healthcare Quality. He directed a Physician Assistant graduate education program while pursuing his DrPH. In addition, he has founded and continues to lead the End-of-Life/Palliative Care Working Group of the Aging & Public Health Section (APHA).

His doctoral dissertation (DrPH) underscores his intense interest and research on the topic: *End-of-Life Decisions, Advance Care Planning, and Culture: A Quantitative Study of Dominican and Puerto Rican Elder Experience in East Harlem*.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Christina Aievoli, MPH – Health Policy and Management

Christina Aievoli recently completed a very interesting field experience (FE) in which she helped shape new prevention policies that could inform drug control policy on a national level, working with people from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Christina notes, "I directly contributed toward these objectives through the crafting and research of supporting documents, director briefings, interagency and stakeholder communications, leading projects, and working as a team with all ONDCP staff to ensure mission fulfillment."

Khalid Elbashir, MPH – Community Health Sciences

As the health system becomes more digitized, and adoption of electronic medical records (EMR) is soaring, Khalid Elbashir is doing his field experience (FE) at the University Hospital of Brooklyn (UHB), SUNY Downstate, with a program called "Patient Portal." This is a new program in which adult in-patients can voluntarily have 24/7 online access to their health records including their medications, allergies, laboratory results, future appointments, and discharge summary for better outcome on their computers, tablets, and smart phones, using a secure username and password, and have the right to share the

information with their primary care providers.

His role is to help with the implementation process by explaining to patients the need to have access to their health records at all the time, fully understand their health status, and have better communications with their providers for overall better healthcare.

After consenting, the patients are enrolled in the Portal System. It provides step-by-step training on the enrollment process, and how to navigate the medical records and help in downloading smart phone apps for easier access.

He also keeps metrics about the rate of enrollments, reason why patients agree to enroll and why they decline enrollment, and makes recommendations to his supervisors on how this new program can be improved.

Afia Frimpong, MPH – Health Policy and Management

Afia Frimpong worked with Dr. Paul Landsbergis (EOHS) to review and develop materials for the SUNY Downstate Safe Patient Handling and Mobility Committee.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES *Continued*



Angela R. Jourdain (Advanced Certificate student) (R) with Keria Blue, David Nemiroff (NuHealth Executive Director), and Betty Avery.

Angela R. Jourdain, RN – Advanced Certificate in Public Health

On October 15, 2015, the International Awareness & Involvement (IAI) and the Health and Wellness (H&W) committees of the Nassau Alumnae Chapter (NAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. collaborated to present an informative program for National Latino HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The event focused on the specific needs of the Latino communities in the villages of Hempstead, Uniondale and Roosevelt, but was open to everyone who wanted more information on how to live safe and healthy lifestyles.

NAC unified several community based organizations that shared the passion for the causes that impact the people of Nassau County. They coordinated the efforts of the NuHealth Family Health Centers, the Long Island Alliance for AIDS Care, North Shore LIJ Health Plan, and the Cornell Cooperative Extension, and provided community members with free HIV screenings, health insurance information, and mental health resources.

Bearing the sorority's national charge, "to lead by example," in mind, Keria Blue, Chair, IAI, and Angela R. Jourdain, RN, Chair, H&W, were among the first three people to get tested. They hope to continue to provide the community with opportunities to confidentially keep abreast of their status, and link them to appropriate and affordable resources. The Latino HIV/AIDS Awareness Program was the first of five scheduled HIV/AIDS awareness programs that the committees have planned for the sorority year. To commemorate World AIDS Day, the next programs will be on held on November 30, 2015, in conjunction with the Pi Tau Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. at Adelphi University, and on December 1, 2015 in collaboration with the Nassau County Commission on Human Rights.

Bianca Rivera, MPH – Epidemiology

Bianca Rivera is working with Dr. Paul Landsbergis (EOHS) and other colleagues to prepare a book chapter on "Organizational-level interventions to reduce sources of K-12 teachers' occupational stress." She also worked with Dr. Landsbergis conducting analyses of data from the American Federation of Teachers' 2015 National Teacher Well-Being and Stress Survey.

Josel Ruiz, MPH – Community Health Sciences

Josel Ruiz worked with Dr. Paul Landsbergis (EOHS) on a literature review of health promotion programs to reduce blood pressure and risk of hypertension. This led to her being a co-author of an invited presentation that Dr. Landsbergis gave on work and hypertension at the 2015 MetLife Global Health Summit.

Ben Schindel, MD/MPH – Epidemiology

Ben, along with three other students (two from the College of Medicine, and one from the School of Public Health) organized an Autism Health Fair. The first Autism Health Fair was held at SUNY Downstate Medical Center on Sunday, October 11, 2015 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM, and attracted about 150 people from our Brooklyn community who have been personally affected by the autism spectrum disorder: the children, their siblings, families, and professionals who provide services and information for this special population. It was organized by Downstate Developmental Disabilities, a new student organization, in collaboration with Dr. Harris Huberman and the SUNY Downstate Child Development Clinic. Ben Schindel is the Founder and President of the organization, and the Treasurer is Alexia Motal, an MPH student. Together, with Rachel Offenbacher and Alexander El Sehamy, students in the College of Medicine, and the other two officers in DDD, they were responsible for coordinating the entire fair, including (but not limited to) contacting organizations, advertising and acquiring food, giveaways, and monetary donations.

The purpose of the fair was two-fold. First, it was an opportunity for parents to network with each other and with representatives from organizations that provide services to children and families with special needs. To this end, they had about 25 local businesses in attendance providing information about services like school programs, legal advice, nutrition, services and advice for adult children who have aged out of many programs, and much more. The other goal was to provide a fun experience for the children. They had a sensory playground run by Occupational Therapy students, a performance by a disabilities-sensitive clown, pumpkin painting, science art activities, lots of giveaways, lots of food (pizza, bananas, apples,

STUDENT ACTIVITIES *Continued*

and tons of other goodies, all donated by local businesses and by Downstate), music, and an ice cream truck. Downstate Developmental Disabilities plans on holding this fair again next year, and, in the meantime, is preparing for the first support group, to be held later in November, for parents of children with autism spectrum disorder.

Tenya Steele, DrPH – Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

Tenya Steele has been appointed Director of Environmental Health at West Harlem Environmental Action (WE ACT). Tenya has long been a strong advocate for environmental health issues and action. In the summer of 2012, Tenya participated in a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Career Science Ambassador Workshop. This was a professional development workshop where selected middle- and high-school science and math teachers collaborated with CDC scientists to develop public health lesson plans. Unlike most of the other fellows, Tenya wasn't a "middle- or high-school teacher," but she was chosen because of her education in public health, coupled with her past work with the New York Academy of Science and New York City public schools as a STEM mentor/educator.

Tenya was also awarded the "Reach the Decision Makers" Fellowship from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Program in Reproductive Health and the Environment, in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency, for the 2014-2015 season.

Leah Timbang, MPH – Community Health Sciences

Leah Timbang was recently selected to be a delegate for the 2016 Millennial Health Leaders' Summit organized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Students selected as delegates show promise as scholars and future leaders who will have an impact in reducing health disparities and achieving health equity. She was nominated for the delegate position by Dr. Aimee Afable, Assistant Professor of Community Health Sciences. The 2016 Millennial Health Leaders' Summit is being held on March 31 – April 1 in Atlanta, Georgia.

During her time in the School of Public Health, Leah has interned at New York University's Center for the Study of Asian American Health. There, she has focused on the implementation of a hypertension monitoring program among Asian American groups in New York City. Her MPH Culminating Experience paper will focus on rates of hypertension and obesity among Filipino Americans in Queens, New York, as well as their social norms for healthy eating.

Leah was born in the Philippines, but spent most of her childhood in New Jersey. She then moved to central California, where she became interested in the health of immigrant populations.

Leah is currently Vice President of the School of Public Health Student Council, and will be entering George Washington University School of Medicine in August 2016.

Alumni News

Kaedrea Jackson, MD, MPH (2004), was noted in a recent United Hospital Fund newsletter. "Kaedrea Jackson, MD, MPH, Kings County Hospital Center/ NYCHHC, has been actively involved in simulation training. Recently, she participated in an activity that integrated simulation training and follow-up debriefings into the critical care and trauma team's activities. The purpose was to improve staff satisfaction, teamwork, and the management of acute ischemic stroke."

New MPH Student Council Officers Elected

The students elected their 2015-2016 Council officers in June. The new officers are:

President:	Alison Philip
Vice President:	Leah Timbang
Secretary:	Simone Dasent
Treasurer:	Bianca Rivera
Faculty Advisor:	Dr. LeConté Dill

The 2014-2015 outgoing officers are:

President:	Erin Andrews
Vice President:	Camilo Werlin
Secretary:	Kimberly Huggins
Treasurer:	Sarah Jones
Faculty Advisor:	Dr. Daniel C. Ehlke

Student Council Activities

Student Council activities in 2015 included:

- Student Activities Fair Participant
- Organized a Fall Mixer, “Mix and Mingle,” attended by students and faculty
- Hosted a Student Forum to garner feedback on the MPH and DrPH programs
- Co-sponsored Sex in Medicine Week in November
- Hosted Study Breaks (snacks and coffee) during Finals Week
- Sponsored a canned food and cereal drive before Thanksgiving to help needy families

Preparations Under Way for Move into the New Public Health/Academic Building

In the spring of 2016, early preparations were begun for the eventual move of the School of Public Health into the new Public Health/Academic Building. These early preparations included space allocations for faculty and administrative offices, conference rooms, storage areas, and dedicated space for DrPH and MPH students. In addition, faculty were surveyed for laboratory space needs.



The eastern side of the Public Health/Academic Building in April 2016.

Student Diversity Well Above the National Average for School of Public Health

Since its inception, the School of Public Health (SPH) and its predecessor, the Master of Public Health Program, recruited a very diverse student body. The percentage of under-represented minorities in the SPH has averaged 70 percent. This compares with an aggregate 48 percent average for the 55 schools and 96 MPH programs accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). For the 2015-2016 academic year, the enrollment of the SPH was as follows: 40 percent African American, 29 percent white, 16 percent Asian, 8 percent Hispanic, and 5 percent unknown.



The front of the Public Health/Academic Building in February 2016.

Progress on the Construction of the New Public Health/Academic Building

Construction on the new Public Health/Academic Building is progressing. As of the spring of 2016, most of the exterior stonework had been placed on the building. In addition, internal walls on a number of floors had been erected. Various sub-committees began meeting to address a variety of topics including furnishings and laboratory space needs. The architects and construction site managers anticipate that the building will be ready for occupancy in late 2017.

GLOBAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

M. Monica Sweeney, MD, MPH, FACP Appointed Director of the Center for Global Health

Dr. M. Monica Sweeney was appointed Director of the Center for Global Health on January 1, 2016. She succeeds Pascal James Imperato, MD, MPH&TM, MACP, Dean of the School of Public Health, as the Center's director. In appointing Dr. Sweeney, Dr. Imperato stated: "Dr. Sweeney brings to this important position unique educational and experiential credentials that eminently qualify her to oversee the Center's current programs and to launch new initiatives."

The Center for Global Health was established in 2011 by Dean Imperato who served as its first director. The Center has a broad range of global activities, most of which enrich the education of students with global health experiences both in the U.S. and abroad.

The Center annually obtains some \$75,000 from extramural sources to support its student-centered programs. These programs include the Global Health in Developing Countries Elective for fourth year medical students, the Global Health Pathway Program for MD and MD/MPH students, the Global Health Practical Field Experience for MPH and DrPH degree students, and the Peace Corps Master's International Program. The Center will soon launch its Advanced Certificate in Global Health.

In the coming year, a special focus of the Center will be on Planetary Health which links global health and that of the earth's sustaining environment.



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 2015 Global Health Elective Awards Ceremony.

Denise M. Bruno, MD, MPH Appointed Course Director for the Global Health in Developing Countries Elective

Dr. Denise Bruno was appointed Course Director for the popular fourth year medical school elective, Global Health in Developing Countries. In announcing the appointment, Dean Imperato stated: "Dr. Bruno has served with great distinction as the course co-director for the past eight years. She has, over that time, assumed increasing responsibility for managing what is probably the most complex elective in the College of Medicine."

A total of 408 fourth year College of Medicine students have participated in this elective in 41 resource poor countries. Dean Imperato, who initiated the elective a number of years ago and served as its director, will assume the role of Course Co-Director.

School of Public Health to Admit Qualified International Students

As part of its efforts to expand the global reach of its educational, research, and service programs, the School of Public Health will soon open its full-time programs to qualified international

students. It is anticipated that the first international students will join the student body in the Fall of 2016.

Fourth Year Medical Students Participate in the Global Health Elective Overseas

The School of Public Health's elective for fourth year medical students, "Global Health in Developing Countries," was established a number of years ago in the then Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health. Since that time and through 2016, a total of 408 medical students have participated in this elective in 41 resource poor countries. Funded through grants provided by the Alumni Fund of the College of Medicine and private foundations, students have spent from six to eight weeks in several different countries or sites. Participating students are selected from a large number of applicants after an examination of their records, a thorough assessment of their inter-personal skills, a personal interview, and an evaluation by the course Selection Committee.

Beginning in January 2016, Denise M. Bruno, MD, MPH became Director of the elective course. Pascal James Imperato, MD, MPH&TM, who had previously directed the elective, became the Co-Director.

The group of students who participated in 2015 and their overseas sites are:

John Buono	Guatemala
Nubia A. Chong	Guatemala
Eric Copeli	Brazil
Danielle Gershon	India
Joan Ma	Thailand
Silvia E. Mancebo	India
Isha Mehta	Thailand
Pavan Reddy	Guatemala
Theodore J. Segarra	Guatemala
Ai-Lin Shao	Taiwan
Alyssa M. Yee	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 2015 reports.

2015 Participants

John Buono, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala: Guatemala has about 16,000 doctors to serve an estimated population of 15 million people, a doctor-patient ratio of 1:1000. This ratio is below the World Health Organization recommendation of a doctor-patient ratio of 1:600. Furthermore, the ratio itself is misleading, as 70% of all physicians live in major cities and urban areas, centralizing any access to healthcare. This means that in rural areas the doctor-patient ratio is lower, and people who reside in these areas are unable to access healthcare. Furthermore, there are 23 different languages spoken in Guatemala with about 105 different dialects. The language barrier further separates patients and providers and with such cultural diversity the thought process regarding life, death, and illness differs on a patient-to-patient basis. These obstacles continue to present a great deal of adversity in

creating a stable and sufficient healthcare system in Guatemala. There are three main branches in the Guatemalan healthcare system. Public health is the largest branch, and it provides free healthcare to approximately 90% of the population. This branch consists of public hospitals, centros de salud (centers of health), and puestos de salud (posts of health). Hospitals are found in all major cities; they are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and their staffs consist of doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel. The physicians who are employed at hospitals throughout Guatemala are overworked, underpaid, and severely stressed. Centers of health can be found outside of cities in larger towns; these centers will usually be staffed by only one physician with nurses and other medical personnel assisting. Posts of health can be found in smaller towns; these centers are staffed by nurses and medical students with no licensed physician being available.



John Buono taking a blood specimen from a patient in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

Nubia A. Chong, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala: The common complaints seen here were diabetes, diarrheal illness, and also a good amount of respiratory issues from the smoke and fumes related to the use of open-flame cooking inside the homes. In addition, I saw a good amount of rashes caused from scabies or flea bites. In rural areas, the people

rarely see a trained doctor or health professional since the hospitals are not readily accessible to them. Instead, the rural areas are mostly served by Mayan medicine where the professionals receive their knowledge and training from the generation preceding them. The people in rural communities trust the Mayan healthcare providers with their medical issues, at times more so than the medical professionals in public hospitals. There is a disconnect between the two types of medicine for a couple reasons. From my understanding, it has to do with the fact that the hospitals are overpopulated and therefore people wait days to be seen. Public hospitals also have inadequate resources. There is a disconnect between Mayan medicine and western medicine as one does not learn much about the other which creates a distrust between the two sides. It is unfortunate, but when there is a complicated pregnancy, for example, some families would rather have their family member stay in the community instead of sending her to the hospital, because of this distrust. Nevertheless, Mayan medicine serves the people of the rural communities and does so through the faith and deep rooted Mayan traditions believed in by the people. It is beautiful to step into their cultures and learn things like – St. Johns Wart will help me when I'm feeling depressed – tobacco applied topically to the head will help with migraines – Belladonna plant will help with motion sickness – Chipilin can help with insomnia when ingested. When seeing patients in clinic, we were taught to always ask about teas that they drank or home remedies for their illness, in an attempt to gain patient trust along with trying to understand more about their beliefs. It was more often than not that patients would say yes. The most special part of my whole experience was the connections formed with patients, at the end of each consultation I would always be thanked and hugged or kissed on the cheek by the women or blessed by the men. Their humility and warm nature was so humbling – an experience

GLOBAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES *Continued*

that I will always hold close to my heart. I will always think back to this incredible experience when looking back on medical school, and would like to thank the Alumni Fund for the funds to partake in this enriching experience.



Nubia A. Chong examining an infant in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

Eric Copeli, Sao Paulo, Brazil: This was an invaluable experience in seeing a third world country making strides in developing its health care and developing a new field that has already existed for some time in the United States. As noted in many conversations, the clinicians are well aware that Emergency Medicine (EM) is about 40 years behind that of the United States. Their desire to help bring the field forward is shown by their enthusiasm, attention to the latest EM texts and articles written in the U.S. and their willingness to expand the field and teach others without compensation. It is truly refreshing and inspiring to work with clinicians who have passion and integrity, which I strive for. I hope to return and work with these clinicians in the future.

Danielle Gershon, Bangalore, India: The problem of necessity is an acute one. Patients aren't insured; they pay their medical bills out of pocket. If they need to choose between feeding their other children or dialysis to save their sick one, they choose to feed the others. Nothing is wasted because the patients pay for each and every thing that is used on them, and if there is a way to save money, that could be the difference

between saving a life and letting one go. As hard as they try to save money, as hard as they work to determine what is necessary and what is not, they haven't made medical care a necessity. What I mean is, despite the fact that patients need medical care, they won't necessarily get it if they can't pay. The example of the child who needed dialysis is a real one. The young boy's parents couldn't pay for the treatment, so they took their son home to die.

Silvia E. Mancebo, Bangalore, India: In general, I believe that my global health elective in India was a very fruitful experience. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to observe medicine practiced in a different setting and I value all of the lessons that I learned during these six weeks. I would like to point out that medicine in India is practiced using the paternalistic model. My patients were not very involved in their healthcare. In fact, some patients didn't even ask what their diagnosis was – they just wanted a cure for their rash or ailment. I'm not sure if this is a product of the deeply entrenched oppressive social system that existed in India for many years, or if patients were truly not interested in knowing more about their health. I think it's probably interplay of the social structure in combination with poor health literacy and education.

Isha Mehta, Bangkok, Thailand: Screening for HIV in Thailand is considerably different than in the U.S. In the U.S., many patients are diagnosed by routine free public health screening or after having had a mild opportunistic infection. In Thailand, most patients are diagnosed after having a severe opportunistic infection. This was evident in HIV clinic when attendings informed us about patient histories, and almost all patients were near death with CD4 counts below 200. The exception to this is pre-natal screening whereby many pregnant women are diagnosed with HIV. The

Thai universal healthcare system provides free medications to all HIV diagnosed patients, which allows for great access. Unfortunately, individuals living in Thailand but not born there are not covered under universal healthcare and therefore cannot receive free medications. This is significant because there is a large subset of Cambodians living in Thailand who cannot afford expensive HIV medications, and, as a result, have many complications from HIV.

Joan Ma, Bangkok, Thailand: Health care in Thailand is a system very different from our own. In Thailand, every Thai citizen is provided with universal health care coverage. However, that does not mean that any Thai citizen can receive health care at any health care facility. Under this universal coverage, each citizen is assigned to a specific hospital. It is at their assigned hospital that they can receive covered health care. If the patient chooses to receive health care elsewhere, he or she must pay for that out of pocket. Often times, certain subspecialties are not represented at these smaller hospitals. In these cases, patients are transferred out to larger institutions like Siriraj, and must pay for their treatment at the larger hospital. Afterwards, patients may be transferred back to their assigned hospital for continuation of treatment. Although universal health care coverage is the main type of health insurance in Thailand, two other forms of health insurance are available. If a Thai citizen has a government job, they are offered a separate type of health insurance which is superior to the universal health care program. The final type of health insurance is private health insurance that anyone can purchase. Universal health care only applies to Thai citizens who can prove their citizenship with an identification card. Thailand is the home of many immigrants from neighboring countries, such as Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia. These people, who may have resided in

Thailand for some time but have not acquired citizenship, must pay for all health care, including medications, out of pocket.



Joan Ma examining a specimen in the laboratory, Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Thailand.

Pavan Reddy, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala: There was in fact quite a bit of herbal medicine encountered in the clinic. Many patients would try herbal medicines before presenting to the clinic with a problem that had not been alleviated by traditional medicine. The complaints in the clinic were typical of any clinic: follow-up for chronic issues like diabetes and hypertension, for example. GI complaints were interesting as they held a wider differential than would be necessary in the States. Because infectious causes were so widespread, giardiasis, amebiasis, helminths, viral, and bacterial causes were all possible. And after, GERD, gastritis, and OB/GYN issues were the next thought. There were also more exotic problems as well. One woman was suspected of having rheumatic fever when a mitral murmur was appreciated. Several times, patients were found to have blood pressures in hypertensive emergency range, and were subsequently sent to the national hospital nearby.

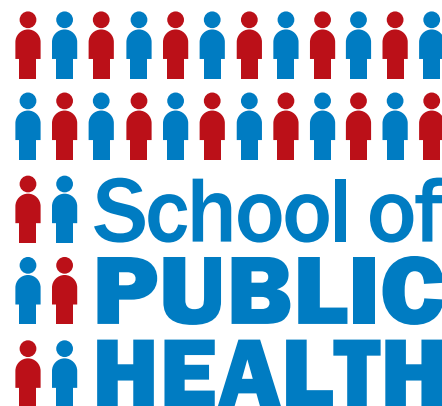
Theodore J. Segarra, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala: With a better understanding of the language and history of the Mayans, the conquest by the Spanish, and the bloody civil war that resulted due to the influence of American corporate interests, I finally had a better perspective from which to understand

my patients and their barriers to health care. Yet, there were still many aspects of the current culture that I did not fully grasp. These foreign aspects of the culture mainly involved the persistence of many of the Mayan beliefs, particularly those involving their understanding of illness, alternative medicines, and the relationship of health to the balance of hot and cold foods. Initially, I would not have thought that these ideas dating back to early Mayan culture would have such a massive impact on the delivery of medical care so many years after the fall of the Mayan empire. However, as I looked more closely, I realized that aspects and symbols of the Mayan culture could be found almost everywhere in their modern society. For example, traditional female clothing is still commonly worn throughout many parts of the country. In fact, the majority of the women in Guatemala own at least one full set of this clothing. Although some women in the higher social classes do not wear the traditional garb every day, almost all women of every class will wear the traditional clothing during special holidays and holy festivals. In general, the clothes are adorned with symbols from nature, including animals, birds, flowers, and plants. This is because nature was a very important part of the Mayan culture.

Ai-Lin Shao, Taipei, Taiwan: Clinics, or OPDs (outpatient department), are located in the old building. Designed efficiently with several small clinic rooms within the first floor, thousands of patients pour into different clinics every day. Because of the national health insurance (NHI), many Taiwanese citizens can afford easy access to health-care. Patients make their own appointments to see the specialties of their choosing. Family medicine and general practitioners also exist. The appointment system is designed so that patients are given a number for a certain day, and can show up for the appointment at any time.

Each morning clinic with one practitioner can see up to 60 patients. Physicians often complain about the injustices accrued onto them by this appointment system. Patients are directed to the specialty by their own judgments, and can all show up at a certain time or not show up at all. After seeing the doctor, patients pay 150NT (the equivalent of about \$5 USD).

Alyssa Yee, Bangalore, India: My week at the rural health center in Mugulore demonstrated a pared down but very effective medical practice. The operating theaters and clinics were barren concrete rooms with folding screens and cots. They were stocked with only reusable supplies, but the surgeries and care provided there were almost identical to those in America with excellent results. This center has becoming extremely proficient in cataract surgeries and serves the elderly rural communities for miles around with great success. While there was no waiting room and the recovery rooms were open, common rooms, the surgeries were sterile and gave many people the ability to see again. With minor trade-offs in comfort and luxury, the rural clinic provided effective, efficient, and inexpensive care to a population in great need with no other source of care.



SUNY Downstate Medical Center

2015-2016 Field Experiences, MPH and DrPH

STUDENT	TITLE	SITE/PARTNER
Almonte, Isleny	Evaluation of the Beginning Signs of Cognitive Impairment in the Elderly	New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Antoine, Laura	Organize and Support Community Health Fairs in Brooklyn	Downstate Medical Center, Center for Community Health Promotion and Wellness
Ashique, Romena	Recruit and Assist in Retention Activities of Barbershop Talk with Brothers Project	Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health, Barbershop Talk with Brothers Project
Aslam, Aanam	Predictors of Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes in Inactive Lupus Patients	Hospital for Special Surgery, Department of Rheumatology
Benitez, Disleiry	Recruitment of Patients for Glycemia Reduction Approaches in Diabetes (GRADE) Study	Downstate Medical Center, Department of Endocrinology, Diabetes Center
Bethany, Colee	Quality Assessment of Confidentiality Protocols for Handling New York City HANES Participant Data	New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Bhattarai, Lila	Programmatic Support of Grant Proposals for Kenya on Quality Improvements of Maternity Waiting Rooms	Health Right International
Bhuiyan, Sayed	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	The New York Academy of Sciences/STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Mentoring Program
Brereton, Racquel	Assessing the Role of Device Usage in the Decline of Carbapenem-resistant Klebsiella Pneumonia in Two New York City Hospitals	Downstate Medical Center, Division of Infectious Diseases
Chahbar, Ali	Programmatic Support of Clinical Trial on Drug Effects on Glucose Levels	Downstate Medical Center, Department of Endocrinology, Diabetes Center
Chan, Caleb	Community Health Outreach for Local Residents on Diabetes	Beacon Christian Community Health Center
Chan, Pui Ying	Program Evaluation of Early Support for Lifelong Success and Buddy Program Projects	The Family Center
Chludzinski, Stacy	Quality Assessment of Patient Re-admission into University Hospital of Brooklyn	Downstate Medical Center, Department of Risk Management
Daniel, Sheba	Exploring Factors that Influence Infant Feeding among Central Brooklyn Mothers	Brooklyn District Public Health Office
Deng, Wen Qin	Community Health Resources and Needs Assessment of Asian Americans in New York Metropolitan Areas	New York University Center of the Study of Asian American Health
Dwivedi, Saurabh	Observational Study on Pneumonia Patients Admitted to Interfaith Medical Center	Interfaith Medical Center, Department of Pulmonary Medicine
Edwards, Rapheisha	Evaluation of Program Participation on Reducing Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome	Downstate Medical Center - Live Light, Live Right (LLR) Program
Elmore-Hernandez, Story	Quality Assessment and Improvement of Patients Obtaining and Renewing Affinity's Health Insurance Coverage	Affinity Health Plan
Enteen, Sarah	Population Health Management	Callen-Lorde Community Health Center
Fasheun, Jennifer	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	The New York Academy of Sciences/STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Mentoring Program
Fisher, Emilia	Evaluation of Program Participation on Reducing Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome	Downstate Medical Center - Live Light, Live Right (LLR) Program

2015-2016 Field Experiences, MPH and DrPH

STUDENT	TITLE	SITE/PARTNER
Frimpong, Afia	Patient Scheduling: Fixing the Problem of Patient Wait Times	Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Summer Fellowship
Ganzman, Stan	Health Care System and Communicable Disease	Downstate Medical Center, Infection Control
Ha, Jewook	Downstate Medical Center Special Treatment and Research (STAR) Health Center	Downstate Medical Center Special Treatment and Research (STAR) Health Center
Hasan, Mohammed	Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial	Downstate Medical Center, Department of Endocrinology
Herring, Jeremy	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	The New York Academy of Sciences/STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Mentoring Program
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
Hoque, Nahima	Woman Empowerment and Humanitarian Interventions for Peace and Security	UN Women (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women)
Huggins, Kimberly	Barbershop Talk with Brothers and Ready to Respond: HIV Prevention Initiatives in Brooklyn, NY	Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health, Barbershop Talk with Brothers Project
Isa, Islam	Quality Measures for Diabetes	Bedford-Stuyvesant Family Health Center
Iusim, Stephanie	Distributed and Explained Informed Consent Documents to Parents of Pediatric Patients	Downstate Medical Center, Department of Otolaryngology
Jahng, Joelle	STAR Health Center PDSA Quality Improvement Project	Downstate Medical Center Special Treatment and Research (STAR) Health Center
Jhanat-Khah, Deanna (DrPH)	Communication and the Beginning of the Dentistry United to Extinguish Tobacco Project	New York University School of Medicine
Joti, Pram	Quality Improvement Programs with Silvercrest Program Staff	The Silvercrest Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation
Julie, Diana	Retrospective Chart Review of Clinical Factors, Disease Outcomes and Hematologic Toxicities among Anal Cancer Patients Treated with Chemotherapy and Radiation	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Karingula, Nidhi	Qualitative Study on Diabetic Patients in Hyderabad, India	Diabetic Clinic (Mediciti/Osmanla Hospital) INDIA
Kasen, Lena	The Relationship between HIV Status in Women and Risk Factors for Coronary Artery Disease	Downstate Medical Center, School of Public Health
Kashem, Tania	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	The New York Academy of Sciences/STEM Mentoring
Kaur, Manpreet	Obesity in Harlem Program Planning and Evaluation	Assemblyman Rory Lancman's Office
Khan, Imraan	Diabetes Prevention Programs among Latino Immigrants	Downstate Medical Center, School of Public Health
Lai, Erica	Quality Improvement of Patient Nutritional Services	Downstate Medical Center, Quality Management Performance Improvement Department

2015-2016 Field Experiences, MPH and DrPH

STUDENT	TITLE	SITE/PARTNER
Law, Susan	Community-based and Hospital-wide Stroke Education Outreach Program	Downstate Medical Center, School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology
Linnen, Jovanna	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	The New York Academy of Sciences/STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Mentoring Program
Majrud, Difaa	Recruitment of Patients for Obstructive Sleep Apnea Study	Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health
Mastrogiovanni, Nicole	Reducing Preventable Readmissions	Downstate Medical Center, Department of Quality Management
McLean, Nicole	Addressing Health Disparities through Community-Based Participatory Research: Developing Research Protocols with the Brooklyn Health Disparities Center	Brooklyn Health Disparities Center
Mehta, Isha	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	The New York Academy of Sciences/STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Mentoring Program
Moran, Dolores	Recruitment of Patients for Glycemia Reduction Approaches in Diabetes (GRADE) Study	Downstate Medical Center, Department of Endocrinology, Diabetes Center
Nowakowski, Tamara	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	The New York Academy of Sciences/STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Mentoring Program
Oluwole, Sofia	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	The New York Academy of Sciences/STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Mentoring Program
Onagan, Frances	Transnational Study of Migration and Diabetes Risk in Filipino Immigrants	Downstate Medical Center, School of Public Health
Ornis, Nathania	Program Evaluation of Effective Ways to Recruit Bone Marrow Donors	Delete Blood Cancer
Parker, Jacqueline	Program Evaluation of Participants' Health Benefits Post Cook Shop Attendance	Sirovich Senior Center
Patel, Tejal	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	The New York Academy of Sciences/STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Mentoring Program
Paul, Diane	Food Pantry Evaluation	United Church of Faith: Food Pantry
Pinkhasov, Alexandr	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	The New York Academy of Sciences/STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Mentoring Program
Pitt, Brian	Risk Assessment of Legionellosis in Building Water System	Downstate Medical Center - Infection Control
Reyes, Nicole	Environmental Determinants of Health	Wtto Kobe Center
Rosiji, Emmanuel	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	The New York Academy of Sciences/STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Mentoring Program
Scott, Janay	Quality Improvement in Promoting Cervical Cancer Screening	Bedford-Stuyvesant Family Health Center

2015-2016 Field Experiences, MPH and DrPH

STUDENT	TITLE	SITE/PARTNER
Shalmiyev, Richard	Positive Affect Influencing Adherence of HIV Positive Individuals	Downstate Medical Center, Women's Interagency HIV Study (WIHS)
Singer, Shmuel	Quality Improvement of Patient Care and Patient Hospital Experience	New York Community Hospital
Stephen, Shuntelle	The Characterization of HIV Stigma and Discrimination and its Impact on Health	San Fernando General Hospital Trinidad & Tobago
Stillo, Marco	Analyzing Procedural Learning Curves	Downstate Medical Center, School of Public Health
Thomas, Britany	Violence Prevention and Intervention Among Urban Youth	Kings Against Violence Initiative (KAVI) Program, Women's Division
Thomas, Jinu	Research Support of Maternal Exposures to Endocrine Disrupting Compounds	Downstate Medical Center, School of Public Health
Townsend, Shanna-Kay	Violence Prevention and Intervention Among Urban Youth	Kings Against Violence Initiative (KAVI) Program, Women's Division
Usui, Erika	Research on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS)
Waxenbaum, Joshua	Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial	Downstate Medical Center, Department of Endocrinology
Wong, Man Hing	The Association of Asthma and Depression in United States	Downstate Medical Center, School of Public Health
Wu, Natasha	Programmatic Support of Strategy Team of the Primary Care Information Project	Downstate Medical Center Special Treatment and Research (STAR) Health Center
Zaheer, Sibgha	Mentoring High School Students in Health Sciences	The New York Academy of Sciences/STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Mentoring Program

School of Public Health Joins the Planetary Health Alliance

In March 2016, the School of Public Health became a member of the Planetary Health Alliance. The alliance, launched in December 2015 and supported by The Rockefeller Foundation, represents “a new effort to dramatically improve our understanding of the linkages between environmental change and human health across the globe.”

Dr. Samuel Myers, Senior Research Scientist at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Director of the Planetary Health Alliance, stated the following on the launching of the Planetary Health Alliance: “The human

transformation of most of the Earth's natural systems represents a clear and present danger to global health.”

A harsh reality is that a number of gains in global health have been achieved at the cost of eroding the Earth's supporting biosphere. As stated by Horton et al. in *From Public to Planetary Health: A Manifesto* 2014; *Lancet* 383:847, “Planetary Health is the health of human civilization and the state of natural systems on which it depends.”

The Planetary Health Alliance is a consortium of a diverse community of stakeholders for the purpose of fostering

research, training, and policy action at the intersection of human-driven environmental change and public health. As a member of the alliance, the School of Public Health will seek to work closely with other groups to place global health efforts within the broader context of a sustainable environment.

School Of Public Health Marks Fifteenth Anniversary Of The MPH Program



First ten graduates of the Master of Public Health Program on the stage at Carnegie Hall with faculty, staff, and administrators.

This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the establishment of the Master of Public Health (MPH) program. Initially housed in the College of Medicine's then Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health, the program initially offered only one track in Urban and Immigrant Health. A major educational initiative of then President John C. LaRosa, the program enrolled a first class of 32 students selected from a pool of 130 applicants. Of these, six were MD/MPH students.

The MPH program rapidly grew in complexity and in the number of faculty and students. In 2005, it was accredited for five years by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). Between 2005 and 2008, extensive efforts were undertaken to create a School of Public Health (SPH) with the CEPH-required five MPH tracks and three Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) tracks, all housed in four separate academic departments.

The SPH was launched in 2008, and was accredited by CEPH in 2010 for the maximum period of five years. By this time, the MPH program's original six faculty had grown to 21, and student enrollment had risen from 32 to 200.

With the support of President John F. Williams, the SPH greatly expanded its programs, established a Center for Global Health, created a now popular

Advanced Certificate in Public Health program, a Global Health Practical Field Experience for MPH and DrPH students, and became a participant in the Peace Corps Master's International Program.

Fifteen years on, the School of Public Health has 402 alumni who advance the cause of public health both here in the U.S. and overseas. A number of MPH program graduates have also gone on to study for their DrPH degree in the School of Public Health, while others have entered various medical schools. The 60 MD/MPH graduates have gone on to do residencies as well as fellowships in various specialties. Some have entered primary care specialties such as Family Practice and General Internal Medicine. At present, there are four DrPH graduates of the SPH. This number will rapidly grow, as there are currently 52 DrPH students in the school.

From its modest origins in a College of Medicine department in 2001, the MPH Program served as the foundation for the creation of the first public School of Public Health in New York City, and the first such school in the history of Brooklyn. Focused on the health of urban and immigrant populations, the school, through its educational, research, and service programs, strives to promote health and health care access equity among the communities it serves.

Update On The Peace Corps Master's International Program

Tyler Hurley, the Peace Corps Recruiter for Brooklyn and Queens, spoke to the incoming public health students at the Fall Orientation on August 31, 2015. He gave an excellent presentation, after which ten incoming students signed up to discuss the program further with him. Tyler is a returned Peace Corps volunteer who spent three years in Bulgaria.



Tyler Hurley (second from left), representative for the Peace Corps Master's International Program, with Dr. Judith H. LaRosa (L), Dean Imperato, and MPH student, Dr. Stephen McCormick.

Public Health in **ACTION**

is a publication of the School of Public Health
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