

## Team Epi-Aid helps state investigate public health outbreaks, illness

State officials are regularly calling upon Carolina's epidemiology students and others from UNC's schools of public health, medicine and pharmacy to help investigate public health concerns close to home, such as the January gastrointestinal outbreak on the UNC campus.

The results of their investigations are helping officials out of state, too: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention used the students' analysis of a

Buncombe County hepatitis A outbreak to help investigate a possible source for a multi-state outbreak.

These students are members of Team Epi-Aid, an initiative of the N.C. Center for Public Health Preparedness, which is based in the School of Public Health's N.C. Institute for Public Health.

Last year, 103 graduate students participated in the program, including 27 epidemiology students. Forty-five epidemiology students have signed up to participate in this year's program.

Team Epi-Aid members assist the N.C. Division of Public Health and local health departments with outbreak investigations and other short-term public health projects.



Graduate students Drew Vaelsch (left) and Michelle Torok are members of Team Epi Aid, an N.C. Center for Public Health Preparedness initiative that deals with outbreak investigations and other short-term public health projects.

When significant numbers of students turned up at the UNC Student Health Service in January with reports of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and stomach cramps, Team Epi-Aid students were recruited to help Orange County Health Department officials investigate the cause.

"Team Epi-Aid members were responsible for contacting UNC students over the phone and interviewing them about their health, activities and recent meals," said Nikki Jarrett, a master's degree student in epidemiology and one of 10 Team Epi-Aid members assisting with the investigation.

Such investigations give Team Epi-Aid students a chance to get hands-on experience in their field of study, said Dr. Pia MacDonald, director of the N.C. Center for Public Health Preparedness, a research assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology, and the program's founder.

"Students are hungry for applied experience in public health," MacDonald

*Continued on page 3*

## EPI faculty work in Africa, explore improved treatment alternatives for malaria, STIs and TB

Dr. Robert W. Ryder, professor of Epidemiology and Medicine, has been awarded a Global Network for Women's and Children's Health Research site in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo to conduct clinical trials in the area of maternal and child health.

The Network brings together 10 international multidisciplinary research teams to commonly address cutting-edge scientific and public health concerns with the goal of improving health and preventing premature disease and death among women and children, primarily those in developing countries. The Global Network is supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the Fogarty International Center, in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

In Kinshasa, Ryder and Department of Epidemiology colleagues, Drs. Annelies Van Rie, Frieda Behets and Steve Meshnick plan to focus their research efforts on

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Dr. David Savitz

**T**HERE ARE MANY EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS in the Department, both in areas that will be quite familiar to our alumni and some that are more novel. The most obvious physical change in progress is the rapid completion of the new School of Public Health laboratory research building, south of Rosenau Hall. We expect to move in early in 2005, and are quite excited about having the opportunity to develop laboratory activities in a more ambitious, systematic, planned way than ever before. The Department will be assigned space in the building on the third floor, an unusual and welcome recognition that there is a clear need for laboratory research focused on epidemiologic applications. Barbara Hulka was an innovator in recognizing how fundamental the partnership between field and laboratory research and training activities should be, and there is no doubt that the rest of the epidemiology community has caught up with her vision!

The major themes our Department will be pursuing through the use of the new space are infectious disease epidemiology and molecular genetic epidemiology. Infectious disease epidemiology research and training has expanded considerably since many of you graduated, consistent with the recognized importance to global public health. More locally, we have the good fortune of having the leaders in infectious disease research on campus, notably Mike Cohen, Division Chief of Infectious Diseases in the Department of Medicine and Director of the Center for Infectious Diseases; Jeff Frelinger, Chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology; and Ron Swanstrom, Director of the Center for AIDS Research, fully embrace the importance of including and developing epidemiology as an equal partner with the needed work in basic and clinical sciences. The expansion of the Department's laboratory infectious disease research will benefit greatly from their guidance and support.

The second major theme, molecular genetic epidemiology, has been fostered from the outset by our close and beneficial relationship with the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, directed by Shelley Earp. A number of us are working to expand on the collaborative relationships with the cancer center, the Genomics Center, directed by Terry Magnuson, and the Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility, headed by Jim Swenberg, to provide the needed core laboratories to enable epidemiologists and other researchers on campus to successfully incorporate molecular assays in the spectrum of information that is ascertained. We also plan to recruit new investigators who can help to bridge between findings in basic sciences and epidemiology through additional laboratory research.

In both cases, the strength is a familiar one at UNC—working closely with knowledgeable and supportive partners towards shared goals in research and education. The modern era of laboratory research in epidemiology is fully linked to laboratory work coming from other disciplinary approaches on the one hand, and to the familiar public health goals and research strategies of epidemiology on the other. The timing of this new facility in the evolution of the field and the Department could not be more fortuitous and we plan to take full advantage of the opportunity with which we are presented. Stay tuned.

*Episode* welcomes your comments and suggestions. Please direct them to:

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*Cary C. Boshamer Distinguished Professor and Chair*

## Team Epi-Aid

*Continued from page 1*

said. "This is a chance for them to see some of the things they learn about in class in a real-life setting."

Team Epi-Aid also supports the state in important ways, said state epidemiologist Dr. Jeffrey Engel.

"Before Team Epi-Aid, many outbreaks would not be investigated simply because morbidity was low, numbers were low and/or the outbreak was short-lived and spontaneously abated without a specific public health intervention," he said. "Now that the state is able to investigate many of these outbreaks using Team Epi-Aid, state and local public health authorities are better able to plan prevention strategies and learn how to conduct outbreak investigations."

Michelle Torok, a Team Epi-Aid member who helped investigate a hepatitis A outbreak in Buncombe County last fall, said working on the investigation has given her new perspective.

"It's one thing to learn about this stuff

in class," said Torok, who is pursuing her doctorate in epidemiology, "but it's a very different experience to go through the process of a real investigation and experience the time pressure to interview people who may have been exposed during an outbreak."

Sixteen people were diagnosed with hepatitis A during the Buncombe County outbreak, including many who had eaten in an Asheville noodle shop. Team Epi-Aid members worked with state and local officials to determine the source of the outbreak, including designing a case-control study, conducting interviews with people who had become ill and also those who hadn't, entering and analyzing data, and writing a summary report.

Contaminated produce may have been the illness source. Study results, with contributions by Team Epi-Aid members, were presented at the 53rd Annual Epidemic Intelligence Service

Conference in Atlanta this April.

Team Epi-Aid's analysis was also used by the CDC for comparison with reports of other hepatitis A outbreaks that occurred during the same time frame in Georgia, Tennessee and Pennsylvania to determine if a common source caused

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*"Students are hungry for applied experience in public health. This is a chance for them to see some of the things they learn about in class in a real-life setting."* —DR. PIA MACDONALD

the multi-state outbreak. In at least one of the other states, contaminated produce was determined to be a probable cause.

Other activities in which Team Epi-Aid has participated in the past year include an HIV cluster investigation, a SARS investigation and response, a hepatitis B outbreak investigation, a food-borne illness surveillance study, a study of adverse events in response to smallpox vaccinations, and a rapid needs assessment of counties affected by Hurricane Isabel.

## UNC Epidemiologists in Africa

*Continued from page 1*

cost-effective and safe prevention and treatment regimens for malaria, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and tuberculosis (TB)—all common in pregnant women in sub-Saharan Africa and important preventable causes of poor birth outcomes and maternal morbidity and mortality.

Many pregnant women in Africa seeking antenatal care do not receive appropriate care for these infections although presumptive therapy with antibiotics or antimalarials can be effective in preventing malaria, and preventative tuberculosis therapies have been shown to work.

UNC's EPI team plans to conduct two new antenatal trials in Kinshasa. First, the team will evaluate the use of azithromycin as a preventive therapy against STIs among pregnant women at high risk of contracting an STI and/or malaria. Although azithromycin is therapeutically effective against bacterial STIs, cheaper practical presumptive therapies regimens still need to be identified. However, azithromycin has the bonus of also offering protection against malaria. Increasingly, resistance of the malaria parasite to the first-line drug sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP) is being recognized in sub-Saharan Africa. The UNC investigators



Physicians, interviewers and nurses who form part of the UNC Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) research team working in the Crossroads for Youth Center in Malonge, Kinshasa, DRC.

hope to improve effectiveness and delay the onset of sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine-resistant malaria by exploiting the synergistic therapeutic effect of azithromycin and SP used together.

The UNC team also plans to test the safety of, and compliance with, a short-course regimen for latent tuberculosis infection in HIV-positive pregnant women.

## EPI faculty lead NC Collaborative Stroke Registry team

**D**r. Wayne Rosamond, associate professor of epidemiology, is leading the North Carolina Collaborative Stroke Registry team in developing a system to measure the delivery of care to patients with acute stroke nationwide.

This involves designing a prospective registry of patients presenting to emergency departments with signs or symptoms of stroke as well as stroke cases directly admitted to the hospital. The N.C. Collaborative Stroke Registry is a prototype of the Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Registry. This prototype registry—one of eight CDC-funded registries nationwide—has 11 hospitals in 11 counties in North Carolina including the University of North Carolina hospital in the study.

This prototype project covered a two-year period from June 2002 to May 2004 with an award of \$1,400,000. In June 2004, Rosamond in collaboration with the N.C. State Health Department, was awarded a competitive grant from the CDC for formal implementation of the Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Registry in North Carolina. The award, in the form of a subcontract with the State, is for \$800,000 per year for three years starting this July.

For more information on the registry, please visit: [www.ncstrokeregistry.org](http://www.ncstrokeregistry.org)



Dr. Wayne Rosamond

which affects prostaglandin production. Estrogen and, perhaps, progesterone, which are the key hormones linked to breast cancer causation, appear to be influenced by prostaglandins.

“Hormone-receptor-positive breast cancer is the predominant type of breast cancer among postmenopausal women, and postmenopausal women make up about 75 percent of all newly diagnosed breast cancer cases in the United States,” she said. “In contrast, hormone-receptor-positive breast cancer is not prevalent among postmenopausal women in Japan, for example, where breast cancer rates are much lower than they are in the U.S.”

“If we can reduce the risk of hormone-receptor-positive breast cancer through such efforts as taking an aspirin-like chemopreventive, we could potentially reduce the incidence of breast cancer among American women,” Gammon said. “This would be a big deal.”

A report on the research appears as the lead article in the May 26 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Besides Gammon, authors include Drs. Mary Beth Terry, assistant professor of epidemiology, and Alfred I. Neugut, professor of epidemiology, both at Columbia.

Gammon is principal investigator of the Long Island Breast Cancer Study Project, one of the most comprehensive environmental epidemiologic studies ever done on that cancer. First results of the investigation, released in 2002, showed that exposure to air-polluting polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the environment appeared to boost women’s risk of breast cancer by a modest 50 percent in Suffolk and Nassau counties, N.Y. It uncovered no increased rate of the illness among area women who might have been exposed to organochlorine compounds.

The new study is based on data gathered during the Long Island project, said Gammon, deputy director of UNC’s Environmental Health and Susceptibility Center and a Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center member.

“Starting with more than 3,000 women in the earlier research, we looked at blood samples taken from hundreds of new breast cancer patients and comparable women without breast cancer who served as controls,” she said. “Our goal in that population-based, case-control study was to determine whether breast cancer incidence in women in the Long Island counties was associated with exposures to the environmental contaminants. We found only a small association.”

In the new research, the strongest effects were seen among women who took aspirin recently and frequently—seven or more tablets a week. Results for ibuprofen were generally weaker. Acetaminophen offered no apparent cancer benefits.

Researchers could not tell from the women’s recollections of aspirin use if dosage strength made a difference.

It is still too soon for doctors to recommend regular aspirin use to prevent the illness and more research needs to be done, including studies of more racially and ethnically diverse groups, the UNC scientist said.

## Aspirin helps protect some women against breast cancer

**A**spirin might help protect many women against breast cancer, according to a new study by epidemiologists from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Columbia University.

“In this work, we confirm reports by others that aspirin reduces the risk of breast cancer by about 20 percent in some women,” said Dr. Marilie D. Gammon, a professor of epidemiology at UNC. “The risk reduction is most pronounced among daily aspirin users—27 percent.”

Chief among new findings is that the reduction appears to be restricted to women with what are called hormone-receptor-positive tumors, Gammon said. The discovery is biologically plausible because aspirin is thought to work through interfering with an important chemical pathway in the body called Cox-2,

The National Cancer Institute and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences paid for the Long Island cancer research, which Congress mandated in 1993.

By David Williamson of UNC News Services

## Small uterine fibroids may be linked with increased risk of miscarriage

**E**arly results from a pioneering study led by researchers in the Department of Epidemiology indicate that small uterine fibroids are associated with an increased risk of miscarriage.

Fibroids, benign muscle tumors of the uterus, are estimated to affect more than one in five women of reproductive age. But little is known about the influence of these growths on pregnancy outcomes, including miscarriage, premature birth and fetal growth restriction.

"No studies have prospectively investigated these risks in a large cohort of women early in pregnancy where presence of fibroids was uniformly assessed using ultrasound imaging. This is the first large-scale prospective study to do that," said Dr. Katherine Hartmann, the study's principal investigator. Hartmann is also assistant professor of epidemiology as well as obstetrics and gynecology in UNC's schools of public health and medicine.

"Fibroids are very common, as are these potentially devastating pregnancy outcomes. But research evidence to inform clinical care is meager," she said.

Previous ultrasound studies of uterine fibroids were flawed because they used ultrasound databases including fibroids that doctors considered of concern, Hartmann said. Typically, these were fibroids of at least three centimeters. Others, often much smaller, were not uniformly noted.

"So the studies are flawed by inadequate assessment of the classification of who has fibroids and who does not," she said. "In our pilot study of 1,600 women, we discovered that the majority of those who have fibroids never have been told that they did."

Fibroids were diagnosed in 170 of the women.

Pilot study results show that women with fibroids have a 55 percent increased risk of pregnancy loss, and smaller fibroids are significantly more associated with having a miscarriage than larger ones. Moreover, it appears that presence of fibroids is uniformly associated with miscarriage throughout early pregnancy.

Hartmann recently presented the pilot study findings at the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Society for Gynecologic Investigation in Houston.

During the next five years, funded by a \$3 million grant from the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, Hartmann's UNC research team will enroll an additional 3,300 ethnically diverse women from 15 N.C. counties who are either planning a pregnancy or are in the early weeks of pregnancy.

The study will also explore the influence of pregnancy and events after pregnancy on fibroid growth. With more than 5,000 women enrolled, the study will have the statistical power to more effectively examine the impact of race, maternal age and smoking status on pregnancy outcome in women with and without fibroids, Hartmann said.

The Center for Women's Health Research, directed by Hartmann, will enroll study participants.

Co-investigators with Hartmann include Dr. David Savitz, professor and chair of epidemiology; Dr. Amy Herring, assistant professor of biostatistics; and Dr. Donna Baird of the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences.

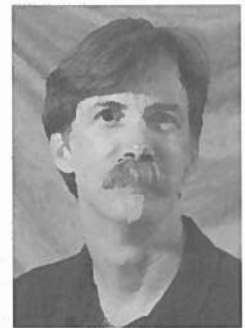
By Leslie H. Lang of the UNC School of Medicine

## Study finds injury common among U.S. commercial fishermen

**D**r. Dana Loomis, professor of epidemiology and environmental sciences and engineering, and his team are completing a one-of-a-kind study investigating the epidemiology of injuries and musculoskeletal disorders among U.S. commercial fishermen.

The Epi researchers are currently analyzing data gathered from a cohort of 219 fishermen the team followed from August 1999 to May 2002. Demographic information and descriptions of work activities were obtained at baseline, and telephone interviews were conducted at regular intervals to ascertain incident traumatic injuries and assess exposure to potential risk factors.

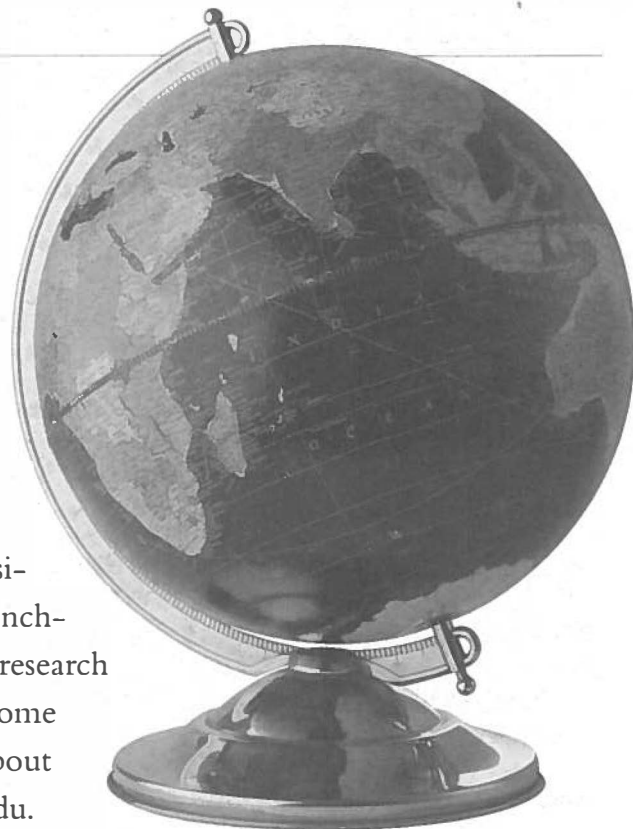
The study found injury to be common among commercial fishermen with rates varying by type of gear and location. Eighty-one fishermen in the study reported a total of 142 incident injuries—a rate of 3.08 per 1,000 person-days (95 percent confidence interval, 0.26–3.59). Most injured fishermen (58 percent) reported only one injury, but 16 percent had three or more injuries. The hands and fingers were often injured (57 percent), followed by the back and arms (each 9 percent). Penetrating wounds (40 percent), then strains/sprains (18 percent), were the most common injuries.



Dr. Dana Loomis

## EPI Alumni: Making a difference around the globe

Department of Epidemiology alumni span the globe. You will find them heading up research branches for organizations such as the National Cancer Institute; working in key appointments with developing country ministries of health; serving as university presidents, deans and professors; overseeing research branches of multi-national corporations; directing multi-partner research projects; and much, much more. Below are highlights of some of your colleagues' activities. To share information with us about your work, please email Nancy Colvin at [ncolvin@unc.edu](mailto:ncolvin@unc.edu).



**RICHARD A. CARTER**, MD, MPH '67, having retired twice in the past five years, is excited in his new position as a Special Master whose job it is to assure a Federal Court that the state of Tennessee is in compliance with the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) law and the John B vs. Menke Consent Decree of March 1998.

**LOUISE BRINTON**, MPH '72, is currently the Chief of the Environmental Epidemiology Branch of the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md. Brinton is a fellow in the American College of Epidemiology and the American Epidemiologic Society, and previously served as president of the Society for Epidemiologic Research. She received the 1997 NIH Senior Biomedical Research Service Award, and had previously received the PHS Special Recognition Award and the NIH Director's Award. Brinton also serves as an editor for seven different cancer and epidemiology journals.

**MOHAMMED SHERZAI**, MPH '72, was appointed in 1985 as the deputy minister and state epidemiologist of the Ministry of Public Health in Kabul, Afghanistan. He has been an epidemiologist with the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System Bureau of Health Surveillance Information and Operation Support since 1994.

**MARY DALY**, MD, MSPH '71, PhD '73, enjoys her work as a professor of medicine and director of the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia. Her work centers on genetic risk for cancer, and has a large Family Risk Assessment Program that conducts

basic science, clinical, behavioral and epidemiologic studies among families with a history of cancer.

**DAVID C. DEUBNER**, MPH '73, vice president, Occupational and Environmental Medicine for Brush Wellman Inc., collaborates with NIOSH in investigations of beryllium workers that seek to clarify exposure-risk relationships, as well as to evaluate the impact of interventions.

**STEVEN TEUTSCH**, MD, MPH '73, is the executive director of Outcomes Research and Management with Merck & Co. Inc. He co-authored a book published by Oxford University Press.

**HARVEY CHECKOWAY**, PhD '78, is currently a professor in the Departments of Environmental Health and Epidemiology at the University of Washington. He directs the Superfund Basic Research Program grant, which is funded by The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). Harvey has been an editor for the American Journal of Epidemiology, and a member of the Board of Scientific Councilors of the National Toxicology Program at NIEHS.

**S. EDWARD DISMUKE**, MD, MSPH '78, holds the position of dean and professor at the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Wichita where he served as the chair for the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health for 11 years for Wichita and Kansas City campuses prior to his present position.

**NANCY A. DREYER**, MPH '76, PhD '78, who is the founder and CEO of Epidemiology Resources Inc. and directed the New England Epidemiology

Institute for 20 years, was also the founder of the journal, *Epidemiology*. Dreyer now works as a senior liaison for the largest health care company in the United States: UnitedHealth Group.

**BEATRICE ROUSE**, PhD '80, is coeditor for "Portrait of Health in the United States," a book selected by the National Library of Medicine and the Medical Library Association for its course in finding and using health statistics.

**MADELEINE LENSKI**, MSPH '81, works with the Department of Epidemiology at Michigan State University as research coordinator for four Lake Michigan area study sites participating in an NIH funded study of premature newborns examining molecular markers of brain damage and other outcomes in early childhood.

**REUVEN PASTERNAK**, MD, MBA, MPH '81, holds a joint appointment as the vice dean of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine for the Bayview Campus, and associate professor at the Bloomberg School of Public Health of Johns Hopkins University, in the Department of Health Policy and Management. His research focus is on the analysis of risk factors for surgery, utilizing data from the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services.

**CAROL ZIMMERMAN GARRISON**, PhD '82, has been appointed the sixth president of the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

**EVERETT LOGUE**, MSPH '77, PhD '82, is a director at the Family Practice Clinical Research Center, Summa Health System in Akron, Ohio. He also holds a joint appointment as associate professor of

Epidemiology in Community Health Sciences and in Family Medicine at Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine. Logue and his colleagues are completing data collection for the REACH (Reasonable Eating and Activity to Change Health) trial, a \$1.5 million obesity management trial funded by AHRQ, NIDDK, and the Summa Foundation.

**SHELDON RETCHIN, MD, MSPH '82**, recently accepted the position of chief executive officer of the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System (VCUHS) and Virginia Commonwealth University vice president for health sciences. Retchin had served as VCUHS senior executive vice president and chief operating officer since 2000, playing a key role in bridging the hospital and physician practice operations.

**MIQUEL PORTA, MD, PhD, MPH '84**, was recently elected European Councilor of the International Epidemiological Association (IEA) and chairman of the IEA European Epidemiology Federation. Dr. Porta is also an associate professor and head of the Clinical & Molecular Epidemiology of Cancer Unit in the Institut Municipal d'Investigacio Medica (IMIM) within the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain.

**CHARLES J. HOMER, MD, MPH '86**, is president and CEO of the National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality, an education and research organization exclusively dedicated to improvement of the quality of children's health care. He is also an associate professor of pediatrics and of public health at Harvard University and serves as chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics Steering Committee on quality improvement and management. Additionally, he is principal investigator of several federally funded studies of quality improvement in child health.

**THOMAS B. COLE, MD, MPH '88**, serves as contributing editor of *The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*. His other positions are research associate professor of Social Medicine and adjunct associate professor of epidemiology at UNC Chapel Hill. Cole is also on the core faculty of the UNC Injury Prevention Research Center.

**JACK K. LEISS, PhD '89**, chief epidemiologist with Analytical Sciences Inc., is principal investigator for a maternally-linked birth records data set, with new methods for achieving high validity of linkages, supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development with an award of \$750,000. He is also the principal investigator for the \$963,560 National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health national study to prevent blood exposure in paramedics. Leiss was one of the judges of the 2002 Young Epidemiology Scholars competition sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

**KENNETH A. MUNDT, PhD '89**, is founder and president of Applied Epidemiology, Inc., a research and consulting firm specializing in occupational health, environmental health, and injury and disability research.

**LESLIE STAYNER, PHD '89**, spent his sabbatical leave the past year working at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in Lyon, France. He just returned to his position as chief of the Risk Evaluation Branch at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in Cincinnati.

**ERIC MATTESON, MD, MPH '90**, associate professor of medicine at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, does clinical trials and classic epidemiology. He currently is funded by an NIH grant for the study of the epidemiology and genetics of rheumatoid arthritis.

**DAVID J. BALLARD, MD, FACP, MSPH '83, PhD '90**, holds a position as senior vice president of Health Care Research and Improvement for the Baylor Health Care System (BHCS) in Dallas. He is responsible for designing, implementing and evaluating clinical quality improvement initiatives for the BHCS. Ballard directed, through the Mayo section of Health Services Evaluation, several innovative health care quality benchmarking studies that launched the Cleveland, Ohio Health Care Quality Choice Initiative. He also led Mayo's efforts in the

## EPID ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Algeria	Iran
Australia	Israel
Austria	Italy
Belgium	Kenya
Brazil	Korea
Cameroon	Kuwait
Canada	Norway
Columbia	Mexico
Egypt	Peru
England	Spain
Finland	Taiwan
France	Thailand
Germany	Turkey
Guatemala	United States
Hong Kong	Venezuela
Iceland	Viet Nam
India	Yugoslavia

## Dr. Hal Morgenstern Receives H. A. Tyroler Distinguished Alumni Award

The H. A. Tyroler Distinguished Alumni Award was established by the Epidemiology Section of the School's Alumni Association to honor Dr. H. Al Tyroler for his vast contributions to methodological and substantive epidemiology in areas of hypertension, dislipidemia, and social and environmental factors related to coronary heart disease. The award recognizes the contributions and accomplishments of a graduate of the UNC Department of Epidemiology.

The 2003 recipient is Dr. Hal Morgenstern, chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Michigan (and former professor and vice chair of the Department of Epidemiology in the UCLA School of Public Health). The award was not given in 2004.

Dr. Morgenstern is a well-known epidemiologist with extensive research experience in a wide range of public health areas, including musculoskeletal conditions, cancers, neuropsychiatric disorders, nonintentional injuries, cardiovascular disease, psychosocial aspects of disease, occupational and environmental health, research methods, and access to and quality of health care. He has published extensively in the biomedical literature and has also been the recipient of teaching awards from the schools of public health at Yale University (1985) and UCLA (1989; 1997; and 1999). Dr. Morgenstern was selected from 10 outstanding nominees singled out by their colleagues for their epidemiological achievements.



## Kaplan Student Publication Award Goes to Anissa I. Vines

The Kaplan Student Publication Award, sponsored by the Epidemiology Section of the School's Alumni Association in honor of Dr. Bert Kaplan, Professor Emeritus of Epidemiology, recognizes an exceptional paper written by a student during his/her work within the program.

The student must be first author on a paper accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal prior to the date of graduation. Selection of the paper is based on public health importance, scholarship, and creativity and is judged by a committee chaired by Dr. Steve Wing.

The Alumni Association is proud to award the 2002 Kaplan Award to Anissa I. Vines for her paper entitled "Development and reliability of a telephone-administered perceived racism scale (TPRS): A tool for epidemiological use" published in *Ethnicity and Disease* 2001; 11:251-262. The award was not given in 2003 or 2004.

Dr. Vines received her PhD in May 2002 and is currently the associate director for a new University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill public health program entitled Ethnicity, Culture, and Health Outcomes (ECHO). She is also a research assistant professor of epidemiology at UNC.

RAND/Academic Medical Centers Consortium Clinical Appropriateness Initiative.

**BECKY MERIWETHER**, MD, MPH '91, is director of the research division of the Department of Family & Community Medicine at Tulane University's School of Medicine, and adjunct faculty in epidemiology at Tulane University's School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine. She is also studying physician counseling for physical activity and is co-investigator on an environmental intervention to prevent obesity in children, recently funded by NIH. Meriwether was named a Robert Wood Johnson Generalist Physician Faculty Scholar for 2001-2005.

**JANE SERLING**, MSPH '91, conducts research in the field of school health for the Center for Research in Education at the Research Triangle Institute. Currently, she is working on a national evaluation of a post-Columbine violence and substance abuse prevention project.

**LINDA FRAZIER**, MD, MPH '92, associate professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita, is a member of the Threshold Limit Values Committee of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, with responsibility for assessing toxicity data and recommending occupational exposure limits.

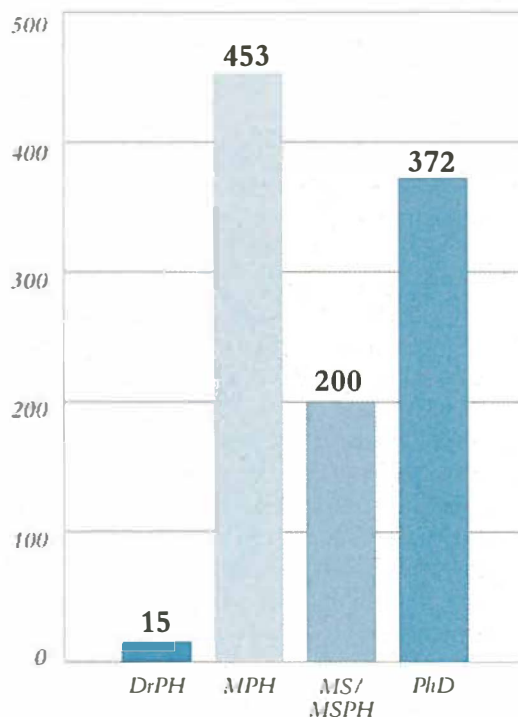
**SHELLY GREENFIELD**, MD, MPH '92, associate psychiatrist at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts, is also the medical director of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Ambulatory Treatment Program and Substance Abuse Consultation Service at McLean Hospital. Greenfield is also the editor-in-chief of the *Harvard Review of Psychiatry*.

**PAMELA J. SCHWINGL**, PhD, '92, is directing CODA, the support services contract of the Epidemiology Branch of NIEHS, and leading the Sister Study development under the direction of Dr. Dale Sandler. This is a national study of 50,000 sisters of women with breast cancer.

**MARK CAMACHO**, DVM, MPH '93, is the veterinary epidemiologist with the Emergency Programs Division of North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. His responsibilities include epidemiological support during disease outbreaks; developing plans and contingencies for foreign animal disease outbreaks, bioterrorist events and natural disasters; and performing a statewide risk assessment for a foreign animal disease outbreak in North Carolina.

**DOUGLAS J. WATSON**, MSPH '91, PhD '93, is a director in the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Research Data Systems at Merck Research Labs, Merck & Co., Inc. He provides support during drug development and post-marketing in the areas of rheumatology and cardiovascular disease by conducting epidemiological research related

## Epidemiology Degrees Awarded 1963-2004





## Lost to Follow-Up

Do you know where the following alumni are now? If so, please email Nancy Colvin, ncolvin@unc.edu. We don't want to lose contact with you!

**Barzgar, Mohammad, MPH, '75**  
**Borges, Rafael, MPH, '72**  
**Florenzano, Ramon, MPH, '75**  
**Gruber, Felix, MPH, '64**  
**Kenya-Mugisha, Nathan, MPH, '93**  
**Kornegay, Cynthia, PhD, '98**  
**Lau, Helena, MSPH, '93**  
**Lee, Jong-Tae, '95**  
**Mah, Manuel, MPH, '94**  
**McLachlan, Douglas, MPH, '02**  
**Ould-Rouis, Bachir, MPH, '63**  
**Sedjo, Rebecca, MSPH, '93**  
**Struba, Robert, PhD, '80**  
**Vatten, Lars, MPH, '88**

to these fields. Watson has published in the areas of the adverse effects of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents, cardiovascular risk estimation, and aspects of outcomes research as it relates to pharmaceutical therapies (e.g., quality-of-life and other patient self-assessments and pharmacoeconomics).

**PAUL FELDBLUM**, MSPH '79, PhD '94, epidemiologist at Family Health International in Research Triangle Park, N.C., conducts barrier contraceptive and HIV/STI prevention research.

**CANDE V. ANANTH**, MPH '93, PhD '95, is associate professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and was appointed director of the section of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Ananth received the 2001 Outstanding Young Professional National Maternal and Child Health achievement award, conferred by the Coalition for Excellence in Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology. This coalition is comprised of the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, March of Dimes, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, HRSA, ATMCH, NACCHO, and five other professional organizations.

**SHINE CHANG**, MSPH '92, PhD '95, serves as associate director for the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program. Prior to joining the National Cancer Institute, Chang was assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology, Division of Cancer Prevention at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. She

continues to conduct biobehavioral research in obesity as it relates to cancer risk and progression.

**JONG-TAE LEE**, PhD '95, is assistant professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine at the College of Medicine, Ewha Womans University in Seoul, Korea.

**KRISTINE MCVEA**, MD, MPH '95, holds the position of associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and the medical director of a federally funded community health center that serves primarily Spanish-speaking immigrants.

**PAMELA MARCUS**, PhD '97, epidemiologist in the Division of Cancer Prevention at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md., conducts research to assess cancer screening modalities with particular emphasis on lung cancer.

**BARBARA THORAND**, PhD, MPH '97, currently works as an epidemiologist in the area of chronic disease epidemiology with a focus on cardiovascular diseases and diabetes at the National Research Center for Environment and Health in Neuherberg near Munich, Germany.

**MERCEDES CARNETHON**, MSPH '98, PhD '00, has been appointed assistant professor of preventive medicine in the Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University.

**BOBBY SCHOPLER**, DVM, PhD '98, who has directed a wildlife center for five years, is starting a new center in Orange County that emphasizes education, rehabilitation and scientific study of ways to improve wildlife rehabilitation. He earned a mayoral

commendation and was named "Tarheel of the Week" by the News and Observer for work on the bald eagle.

**YVONNE WASILEWSKI**, PhD, MPH '99, research coordinator with the Research Scholar Center for Child and Family Policy in the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University, conducts research on violence prevention intervention with middle school children as part of a multi-site violence prevention initiative funded by the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**PENELOPE J. PADGETT**, MPH '99, is a lecturer in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**MARIE O'NEILL**, PhD '00, is a research fellow in the Environmental Epidemiology Program at the Harvard School of Public Health. She recently collaborated in research at the National Institute of Public Health in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

**LUENDA E. CHARLES**, PhD, '00, senior epidemiologist with national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NCID/FDDB, has research interests in occupational and environmental epidemiology.

**CHRISTINA PETERSON**, MSPH '00, PhD '03, began her post-graduate career as an EIS Officer for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**RUKMINI BAGCHEE BALU**, PhD, '01, adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is a GlaxoSmithKline epidemiologist and collaborator in HIV Outcomes Research/US (CHORUS).

## Proud to Claim Four University Presidents Among our Alumni

**ALTHOUGH MOST DEPARTMENT ALUMNI** don't plan on this particular career track, the notable cluster of University Presidents—all from the early 1980s—is quite remarkable and a great testimony to the diverse talents of epidemiologists.

**Naomar Monteiro de Almeida-Filho**, PhD '81  
 President, Universidade Federal da Bahia

**Carol Zimmerman Garrison**, PhD '82  
 President, University of Alabama at Birmingham

**Heather Munroe Blum**, PhD '83  
 Principal, McGill University

**Raymond Seth Greenberg**, PhD '83  
 President, Medical University of South Carolina

## Alumna Establishes Scholarship Fund

The Department of Epidemiology extends a heartfelt thank you to Joan Cornoni Huntley, PhD '70, for establishing a scholarship for incoming doctoral students. Dr. Huntley launched the scholarship in 1993 to assist the department in attracting the very best doctoral students. To date the scholarship has supported Erin Bell, PhD '00; Andrew Voetsch, 4th year PhD student; Jacqueline Tate, 3rd year PhD student; Sangmi Kim, first year PhD student, and Patrick Bradshaw, entering PhD student.

Erin completed her dissertation, "Fetal Death and Maternal Exposure to Agricultural Pesticides," under the direction of Dr. Irva Hertz-Picciotto, a professor of epidemiology and preventive medicine at the University of California, Davis. After completing a post-doctoral fellowship at the National Cancer Institute, Erin was recruited for the position of assistant professor of Epidemiology at the State University of New York at Albany's School of Public Health.

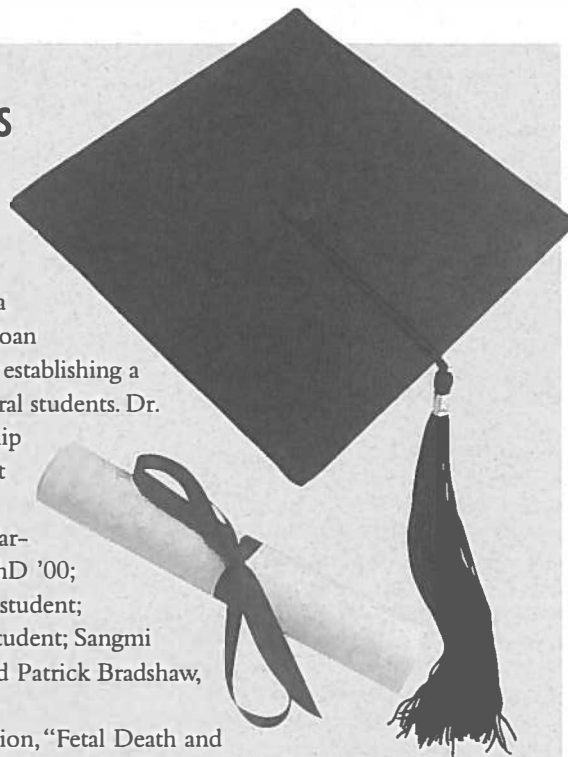
Drew is currently with the North Carolina Center for Public Health Preparedness working to train the public health workforce in surveillance and outbreak investigation methods. His dissertation, under the direction of Dr. Charlie Poole, an associate professor in the School's Department of Epidemiology, is a re-analysis of the CDC's Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet) Salmonella case-control study using alternative control groups.

Jackie is advised by Dr. Robin Ryder, a professor in the School's Department of Epidemiology. Her work involves evaluating HIV/AIDS intervention programs and estimating size of risk populations in Central Asia. She also works for the MEASURE Evaluation Project under the direction of Dr. Sharon Weir, a research assistant professor in the School's Department of Epidemiology and the Carolina Population Center.

Sangmi plans to pursue her interest in the epidemiology of gastric and liver cancers under the guidance of Dr. Robert Sandler, a professor in the School's Department of Epidemiology and the Department of Medicine in the School of Medicine.

Patrick will join us in August. His interests include epidemiologic methodology, infectious disease epidemiology, perinatal epidemiology, and nutritional epidemiology. He will be advised by Dr. Harry Guess, a professor in the School's Department of Epidemiology.

Thank you, Joan, for helping these deserving students meet their goals, and, for giving us the opportunity to know and work with these exceptional individuals!



**TARA PATTON**, MSPH, '01, senior program coordinator at the University of Arizona, manages a large breast cancer case control study evaluating life-style and genetic risk factors for breast cancer in American Indians, Hispanics and whites.

**LESLEY BUTLER**, MSPH '98, PhD '02, recently joined the University of California, Davis as assistant professor in the Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine Department. She recently completed a post-doctoral fellowship at NIEHS.

**CLAIRE NEWBERN**, PhD '02 has joined the Philadelphia Department of Public Health's Division of Disease Control as an epidemic intelligence service officer. She has been one of the lead investigators from the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on a multi-state outbreak of listeriosis linked to sliced turkey deli meat consumption.

**ABIGAIL WALLIS**, MSPH '02 holds a position as injury epidemiologist for the national SAFE KIDS campaign, a not-for-profit organization that works to prevent unintentional injuries to children ages 14 and under.

## Deceased Alumni

Broadhead, W. Eugene, PhD, '87  
 Burt, Junior Lloyd, DrPH, '63  
 Clark, Larry Carlyle, PhD, '81  
 Cordle, Frank, MPH, '67  
 Davis, Charles Hollis, MPH, '60  
 Drake, Henry Ashley, MSPH, '63  
 Duany, Luis Felipe, DrPH, '70  
 Flemming, Edward Lee, MPH, '62  
 Giddens, Warren W., MPH, '68  
 Glenn, David Leonard, MPH, '65  
 Gore, Herschel Columbus, MPH, '70  
 Hargett, Margaret Virginia, PhD, '77  
 Hawkins, Charles Bruce, MPH, '64  
 Holbrook, Robert Holt, MSPH, '75  
 Hughes, John Thomas, DrPH, '63  
 Klimko, Theresa Bernadette, MPH, '91  
 Larson, David Bruce, MSPH, '83  
 Lecomte, Jean, MPH, '69  
 Lee, Lester Wade, MPH, '92  
 Lowe, Marie Louise, PhD, '69  
 McLean, Harry Herndon, MPH, '60  
 McMahon, Michael J., MPH, '95  
 Moncrief, Everette W., MPH, '60  
 Northcutt, Travis J., MPH, '59  
 Nuckolls, Katherine Buckley, PhD, '70  
 Quinlan, Carroll Blake, MPH, '66  
 Reifler, Clifford Bruce, MPH, '67  
 Ritter, Sherrill Wilham, MPH, '65  
 Shern, Roald John, MPH, '69  
 Sherrill, Luby Thaddeus, MPH, '65  
 Swisher, A. Dale, MPH, '63  
 Thomas, Frances J., PhD, '72  
 Todt, Margaret Ann, MPH, '63  
 Vine, Marilyn Frances, PhD, '88  
 Voors, Antonie Wouter, DrPH, '65  
 Wood, Jean Marie, PhD, '73

## Epidemiology faculty, students and staff recognized for excellence

Carolina's epidemiology faculty, students and staff continue to be recognized for their contributions to research, project management, service, training, teaching and curriculum development. Below are some of those from our School who have recently received such honors.

**GLENN GROSSMAN**, PhD student (advisor: Charlie Poole), received the Boka W. Hadzija Award for Distinguished University Service by a Graduate or Professional Student.

**REBECCA JAMES**, PhD student (advisor: Irva Hertz-Picciotto), has won the 2001 David L. Boren NSEP Graduate Fellowship for research and language training in Prague, Czech Republic, a two-year fellowship funded through the Academy for Development.

**HEATHER T. KEENAN**, MD, PhD student (advisor: Steve Marshall), received the 2002 Robert Verhalen Endowed Scholarship in Injury Prevention/Trauma.

**GAIL KING** was recognized as the Manager of the Year for 2000 by the University Managers' Association. The award is presented annually to an active member of the Association in recognition of outstanding contributions in the field of management at the University of North Carolina at Chapel

Hill. Gail has long been recognized by the Department of Epidemiology as the one who can make it all come together. We are indeed fortunate to have her skills available to us!

**KRISTEN KUCERA** MSPH, '02, PhD student (advisor: Dana Loomis), won honorable mention for the best contribution by a young investigator at the 16th International Symposium on Epidemiology in Occupational Health, held in Barcelona, Spain.

Her winning abstract, titled "Biomechanical assessment of North Carolina commercial crab fishermen," looked specifically at the biomechanics of tasks done by fishermen and how they may lead to musculoskeletal injury. The paper was co-authored by Dr. Gary Mirka, associate professor of industrial engineering at North Carolina State University.

**DANA LOOMIS**, a professor of epidemiology, was named Chair of the School of Public Health's Global Health Advisory Committee. He has been a member of the committee since its inception in

2001. He also served on the School's International Programs Committee from 1991 to 1994, a forerunner of the Office of Global Health.

**GAYLE SHIMOKURA**, PhD student (advisor: David Weber), earned the first Thomas Wong and Susanne Moulton Endowed Scholarship in the amount of \$1,250 in July 2002.

**JAMES THOMAS**, associate professor of epidemiology, received the Moister Fellow of Ethics award from the UNC Institute for the Arts and Humanities in recognition of his bringing ethics into the curriculum of the School of Public Health. Dr. Thomas was also the principal author of the public health code of ethics—the first of its kind. The code, formally adopted by the American Public Health Association in February 2002, was written to create a standard guide for public health institutions and practitioners that ensures that measures taken to protect the public's health are ethical.

**RACHEL WILLIAMS**, PhD '03, (advisor: Kathie Hartmann), received the 2001 Bryant Scholarship for the Prevention of Violence Against Women in the amount of \$5,000 for recognition of commitment to the public health problem of violence against women.

## Star Heel award winners

The Star Heels Award Program is administered by the University's Employee Services Department, Office of Human Resources to provide awards to individual departments to recognize and reward excellent employees.

### 2004 RECIPIENTS

Spencer Gee, *Computing Consultant*  
David Hunt, *Accounting Technician*  
Lesa McPherson, *Human Resources Manager*  
Sharon Robinson, *Social Research Assistant*

### 2003 RECIPIENTS

Carolyn Cooke, *Accounting Specialist*  
Linda Kalka-Juhl, *Social Research Assistant*  
Joanna Smith, *Applications Analyst Programmer*  
Carmen Woody, *Student Services Manager*

### 2002 RECIPIENTS

Linda Bennett, *Social Research Assistant*  
Gail King, *University Administrative Manager*  
Linda Morris, *Social Research Associate*  
Carmen Woody, *Student Services Assistant*

### 2001 RECIPIENTS

Julia Little, *Clinical Nurse*  
Veda Manley, *Computer Production Specialist*  
Lesa McPherson, *Administrative Assistant*  
Joanna Smith, *Applications Analyst Programmer*

*Awards news continued on page 14*



**CARMEN A. WOODY**, Student Services Manager, received the 2004 Epidemiology Award for Staff Excellence. Carmen joined the department in 1984 and is an amazing asset to our department. Although she is faced with one of the most laborious and stress-trodden positions in the department, she handles every situation with a level of unmatched composure. She embodies all the qualities an employer could ever hope for: integrity, dedication, dependability and commitment. Woody was also the recipient of the 2004 School of Public Health Award for Staff Excellence. Faculty, staff and students praised Woody for her productivity, organization, efficiency and initiative.

Previous recipients of the Epidemiology Award for Staff Excellence were:

- 2003 Brigitt J. Heier, *Research Assistant*
- 2002 Katherine E. Watson, *Office Assistant*
- 2001 Nancy L. Colvin, *Assistant to the Chair for Graduate Studies*
- 2000 Roger K. Akers, *Assistant to the Chair for Research*
- 1999 Susanne H. Wolf, *Research Associate*
- 1998 Victor G. Rhodes Jr., *Applications Analyst Programmer*
- 1997 Phyllis H. Johnson, *Research Associate*
- 1996 Bethsaida S. Seagroves, *Administrative Secretary*

## New faculty and staff enhance department

Many new faculty and staff have joined the Department recently bringing with them a wealth of talent, experience and expertise in fields such as international health, HIV/AIDS and reproductive health outcomes, molecular and genetic epidemiology, pharmacoepidemiology, infectious disease surveillance, cancer epidemiology, and the study of parasitic diseases among others. Read on to meet some of our Department's newest members.

### New Faculty, 2000–2004

**FRIEDA BEHETS**, PhD, research associate professor, (October 1, 2001), conducts research in international health, with a focus on sexually transmitted infections. She has worked with projects in Jamaica, Egypt, Madagascar and Haiti.

**JEANNETTE BENSEN**, PhD, research assistant professor (January 1, 2004). Dr. Bensen's interests are in molecular epidemiology, particularly immunogenetics and the role of inflammation in chronic diseases. She is serving as co-director of the Prostate Cancer Consortium, a multidisciplinary study that addresses possible reasons for the racial disparity in prostate cancer mortality, based at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

**KELLY EVENSON**, PhD ('98), research assistant professor (July 1, 2000). Dr. Evenson's research focus is the influence of physical activity on health, including the role of physical activity on pregnancy outcomes and the study of the effects of neighborhood environments on physical activity.

**MICHELE JONSSON FUNK**, PhD ('03), research instructor (March 15, 2004). Dr. Jonsson Funk is interested in methods and applications of pharmacoepidemiology, particularly addressing HIV/AIDS and reproductive health outcomes. She will be working both with the UNC/GlaxoSmithKline Center of Excellence in Pharmacoepidemiology and Public Health and the North Carolina Women's Program on Women's Health.

**HARRY GUESS**, MD; PhD, professor (August 1, 2003). Dr. Guess has had a long affiliation with the Department as an adjunct professor, and will continue to focus on pharmacoepidemiology, particularly the development and application of research methods in this field. He is serving as the Director of the UNC/GlaxoSmithKline Center of Excellence in Pharmacoepidemiology and Public Health.

**DEBRA IRWIN**, PhD ('92), research assistant professor (September 22, 2003). Dr. Irwin has worked in a variety of areas of epidemiology, including pharmacoepidemiology, infectious disease, and reproductive health. She is currently Scientific Coordinator for the NC Center for Genomics and Public Health, a program funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**PIA MACDONALD**, PhD, research assistant professor (June 28, 2002). Dr. MacDonald is project director of the Center for Public Health Preparedness. Activities include developing and piloting an active surveillance system in western North Carolina, training the state's regional public health response teams, and assisting neighboring states with their infectious disease surveillance systems. Interests include infectious disease surveillance and outbreak investigation, spatial statistics, geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, vector borne diseases, and international health.

**STEPHEN MARSHALL**, PhD ('98), assistant professor (January 1, 2002, joint appointment in the Department of Orthopedics). Dr. Marshall's research area is in the application of advanced biostatistical

methods to the study of the causes and treatment of injury, including the study of health outcomes resulting from interventions addressing musculoskeletal disorders. Interests include workplace violence, as well as concussion incidence and knee injury in sports.

**STEVEN MESHNICK**, MD, PhD, professor (March 9, 2002, joint appointment in Microbiology and Immunology). Dr. Meshnick has focused his research on parasitic diseases, integrating approaches of microbiology, epidemiology, and treatment. He has conducted basic research to identify opportunities for therapeutic intervention, as well as molecular epidemiology, seeking to integrate an understanding of parasitic disease at the molecular and population level. His current focus is on malaria, including the impact of malaria on pregnancy in sub-Saharan Africa, drug resistance in malaria, and the molecular epidemiology of *Pneumocystis carinii*, an opportunistic parasitic infection associated with AIDS.

**KARI NORTH**, PhD, assistant professor (February 1, 2002). The focus of Dr. North's research is on the application of quantitative methods in population and family studies to understand the genetic basis for complex diseases. Her areas of research focus within genetic epidemiology are related to the discovery of specific genes that influence common complex human diseases, such as diabetes, CVD, obesity, and the metabolic syndrome.

**DAVID RICHARDSON**, PhD ('97), research assistant professor (July 1, 2002), is involved in studies of the health effects of protracted exposures to ionizing radiation as well as research on fatal occupational injuries.

**BEVERLY ROCKHILL**, PhD ('97), assistant professor (November 19, 2001). Dr. Rockhill's research area is cancer epidemiology, including cancer prevention and control, cancer etiology, statistical methods in epidemiology, and more broadly, the interface of epidemiology and public health.

## New Assistant to the Chair for Research

Peter DeSaix, PhD, serves as assistant to the chair for research (also known as the manager of information technology). Dr. DeSaix has a long history of working with the Collaborative Studies Coordinating Center. Prior to this, Dr. DeSaix worked several years in industry and as a visiting lecturer here at Carolina, where he obtained his PhD in biology. His background combines doctoral training in biological sciences, with a wide range of computing experience at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, giving him excellent insight regarding the campus Academic Technology Networks, the School of Public Health, and other key aspects of the computing environment in which the Department operates.

**KATHY ROSE**, PhD ('94), research assistant professor (May 1, 2001), has expertise in the area of cardiovascular disease epidemiology. She leads the Lifecourse Socioeconomic Status and Cardiovascular Disease project and is also involved in the cardiovascular component of a study of the health effects of PTSD and combat exposure in Vietnam veterans. Other interests include the association of employment with health in women and the influence of orthostatic hypertension on cardiovascular and other health outcomes.

**ROBERT RYDER**, MD, MSc, professor (January 15, 2001), joint appointment in the Department of Medicine). Dr. Ryder is an internationally recognized expert in the epidemiology and control of infectious diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS. He has been instrumental in several major international efforts to understand transmission and control of HIV in Africa, and has recently focused on the prevention of HIV transmission in Russia. He has experience in studying the epidemiology of a wide range of infectious diseases, including causes of gastroenteritis, Lyme disease, and respiratory infection.

**ROBERT SANDLER**, MD, MPH ('82), professor (primary appointment in Medicine, secondary in Epidemiology, April 1, 2001). Dr. Sandler is an internist/gastroenterologist with research interests in colon cancer etiology, screening and prevention, and intermediate markers of colon cancer risk. He is conducting a population-based, case-control study exploring environmental, lifestyle and medical factors that might explain diverging black-white incidence and mortality trends for colorectal cancer. His other studies examine environmental factors responsible for rectal mucosal proliferation and the impact of processes of cancer care on outcomes.

**JANE SCHROEDER**, DVM, PhD ('99), assistant professor (October 26, 2001), focuses on the causes of cancer, especially lymphatic and hematopoietic cancers. She has a strong background in cancer biology, building on her training in veterinary medicine, and quantitative epidemiologic methods.

**JENNIFER SMITH**, PhD, research assistant professor (January 30, 2004). Dr. Smith's area of focus is on the epidemiology of sexually transmitted infections, particularly human papillomavirus and herpes simplex, and their relationship with the development of cervical cancer. Much of her work is concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa and includes the relationship of these infections to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

**ANNELIES VAN RIE**, MD, PhD, assistant professor (August 31, 2001). Dr. Van Rie's research focus has been on the epidemiology of tuberculosis, with significant achievements in improving understanding of the recurrence of the disease subsequent to treatment. She is also examining the relationship of tuberculosis with HIV/AIDS.

## New Staff

### 2004

Patricia Basta, *Research Associate*  
Robin Berger, *Research Nurse*  
Janice Britson, *Social Research Assistant*  
Rhonda Compton, *Research Technician*  
Anjum Hajat, *Research Associate*  
Michelle Hayes, *Social Research Assistant*  
Timothy Holbert, *Social Research Assistant*  
Diana Maher, *Study Coordinator*  
Kathleen Shannon, *Social Research Assistant*

### 2003

Courtney Bowers, *Accounting Technician*  
Lisa Bradley, *Office Assistant*  
Lorrie Bradley, *Project Director*  
Chandra Caldwell,  
*Information & Communications Specialist*  
Laura Davis, *Project Director*  
Brenda Denzler, *Social Research Assistant*  
Peter DeSaix, *Assistant to Chair for Research*  
Spencer Gee, *Computing Consultant*  
Yanfang Jiang, *Computer Programmer*  
Rinko Kinoshita, *In-Country Program Director*  
Kerrie Kruse, *Social Research Associate*  
Kimberly Ludwig, *Computer Programmer*  
Jennifer Moore, *Accounting Technician*  
Penelope Padgett, *Surveillance Officer*  
Sarah Swann, *Social Research Assistant*

**ANISSA VINES**, PhD ('02), research assistant professor (September 30, 2002). Dr. Vines studies women's health, with a focus on reproductive health and health disparities. She is serving as the associate director for the UNC Program on Ethnicity, Culture, and Health Outcomes (ECHO).

**SUMA VUPPUTURI**, PhD, assistant professor (August 1, 2003). Dr. Vupputuri is working in the area of chronic kidney disease, including examining environmental and lifestyle factors related to blood pressure. She is also involved more broadly with the array of research based in the Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology Program.

**SHARON WEIR**, PhD ('97), research assistant professor (February 1, 2001). Dr. Weir's research focuses on methodological and behavioral aspects of infectious disease epidemiology, especially sexually transmitted infections. She has developed an innovative methodology to study sexual mixing in high transmission urban and rural areas in developing countries. The method is interdisciplinary and makes use of spatial analyses, qualitative methods, demography, and epidemiology.

Lipika Vaidya, *Social Research Assistant (WHI)*  
Molly Wen, *Computer Programmer*  
Jian Yang, *Computer Programmer*

### 2002

Judy Bryan, *Program Assistant (CHANCE)*  
Linda Coughlin, *Physician Extender (WHI)*  
Dottie Howell, *Administrative Assistant*  
Linda Kalka-Juhl,  
*Social Research Assistant (WHI)*  
Angie Luan, *Accounting Technician*  
Desiree Pittman, *Social Research Assistant*  
Kimberly Soliman, *Processing Assistant (WHI)*  
Adrienne Valesano, *Social Research Assistant*

### 2001

Brigitt Heier, *Research Assistant*  
Andrea Lindsay,  
*Social Research Assistant (AWWARF)*  
Denise Ryan, *Processing Assistant (WHI)*

### 2000

Annie Ryan, *Practical Nurse (WHI)*  
Abigail Ukwuani,  
*Information & Communication Specialist*  
Katherine Watson, *Administrative Secretary II*

**SUZANNE WEST**, PhD ('94), research associate professor (primary in OB/GYN and secondary in Epidemiology, June 10, 2002). Pharmacoepidemiology is Dr. West's area of research and she has an adjunct appointment in the Division of Pharmaceutical Policy and Evaluative Sciences in the School of Pharmacy. For more than 20 years, Dr. West has directed and/or managed the design, conduct, and analysis of studies in a wide array of research areas, often sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry. She has extensive experience in conducting and improving the methodologies for systematic evidence reviews. Her current areas of research focus include sexual function, postpartum depression, and the adverse effects of drug use in pregnancy.

**KARIN YEATTS**, PhD ('97), research assistant professor (September 30, 2002), has research interests in the area of environmental epidemiology, with a particular focus on asthma, especially surveillance and treatment issues, and other respiratory diseases potentially affected by air pollution.

## Career Day focuses on life after graduation

On March 28, 2003, the Epidemiology Student Organization (ESO), in collaboration with the epidemiology section of the School's Alumni Association, coordinated Epidemiology Career Day. Twenty-four epidemiologists, many of whom are graduates of our department who now work in various organizations and career fields, shared experiences from their professional lives.

Over 40 students rotated through concurrent workshops to hear about professional opportunities in academia, government, pharmaceutical companies, and contract research organizations. A big thanks goes to all the speakers for meeting with students and providing much needed encouragement on life after graduation.



[above] Participants discuss various career options in EPID.



[left] Current MPH student Mary Anne Wenck (sitting), JJ Nelson (PhD, 1996) and Bill McDonnell (MPH, 1984; PhD, 1991) discuss career options.



Having fun at EPID Staff Appreciation Day



## A day of song, roses and gifts

On April 14, 2003, the Epidemiology Student Organization (ESO) surprised the staff of the Epidemiology Department with a day of song, roses, gifts, music and decorations. Over 40 students organized the day to express to the staff why they consider them the students' "Lucky Charms."

The hallway and staff offices were decorated with balloons, streamers, posters and ornaments. Jens Levy and Brian Pence wandered from one office to another singing to each staff member a song of appreciation, and handing out roses. Later in the day, the staff were treated with songs, good food and jazz performances by Drs. Jay Kaufman and Steve Wing (EPID faculty), David Pascoe (EPID MPH student) and Pete Kimosh (MS student in Music). The staff were thrilled by the thoughtfulness of these students.

Describing the events of the day, Dr. Steve Wing commented: "They (the students) have big hearts, human sunshine. We need more of this!"

## Dedicated EPI Staff support department Continued from page 11

The Department of Epidemiology is grateful for the long-term dedication of the following staff members, all of whom have at least 10 years of state service (service start date in parentheses):

Gail King, *Assistant to the Chair for Business and Finance* (1969)

Sue Wolf, *Research Associate* (1970)

Veda Manley, *Computer Production Specialist* (1975)

Virginia Reid, *Office Assistant* (1976)

Vic Rhodes, *Application Analyst Programmer* (1976)

Terry Hudgins, *Application Analyst Programmer* (1977)

Phyllis Johnson, *Social Research Associate* (1977)

Marilyn Knowles, *Social Research Assistant* (1977)

Joanna Smith, *Application Analyst Programmer* (1978)

Lesa McPherson, *Human Resources Manager* (1980)

Joy Wood, *Application Analyst Programmer* (1980)

Carmen Woody, *Student Services Manager* (1980)

Eileen Gregory, *Application Analyst Programmer* (1982)

Carolyn Cooke, *Accounting Specialist* (1983)

Judy Bryan, *Program Assistant* (1984)

Tom Goodwin, *Application Analyst Programmer* (1985)

Nancy Colvin, *Assistant to the Chair for Graduate Studies* (1986)

Richard Howard, *Application Analyst-Programmer* (1989)

## Gifts to the Department (1999–2004)

THE DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY wishes to express gratitude to the individuals and corporations whose donations provide the much needed funds that support the department's graduate education. We are thankful for your continued support.

### COMPANIES AND FOUNDATIONS

Merck & Company—HQ  
Jessie Ball DuPont  
Fund Foundation  
Merck Human Health Division  
GlaxoSmithKline  
RTP Applied Epidemiology

### INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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Sigrid E. Berg  
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Claire C. Bourguet  
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Katherine Mary Brett  
Louise A. Brinton  
Steve Browning  
Charles Ross Buck  
Douglas S. Campbell  
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Timothy S. Carey  
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Richard A. Carter  
Julie McClure Chandler  
Shine Chang  
Anne Foster Checkoway  
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Dennis Alfred Clements III  
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Michael Nolan Cook  
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