

From the Chair

I first came to the Department in 1985, a new, fairly young, Assistant Professor from the University of Colorado, thrilled to be joining the “big leagues” of epidemiology. For those old enough to remember that era and fellow sports fans, I said to a friend outside the field of epidemiology that North Carolina was like the Philadelphia 76ers at that time, a very well-respected contender for the very best in the country, in fact among the best in the world. The continued success of the Department in recruiting faculty, training students, and advancing scientific knowledge and public health is remarkable, dating from its founding by Sidney Kark, and thriving under the leadership of John Cassel and then Michel Ibrahim. When I arrived, Barbara Hulka, as Department Chair, had begun a transformation of the Department through recruitments and collaborations, continued by Carl Shy. I became Chair in 1996, inheriting a Department with no major problems, and affording every opportunity to make it stronger. Reflecting the character of my predecessors and the personality of the Department, the presence of three former department chairs and a former dean on our faculty was nothing but an asset – colleagues at less congenial settings were skeptical until I reminded them of who was involved: Michel, Barbara, and Carl. As Chairs, they always had the Department’s best interests at heart, and that continued fully as members of the faculty.

During the nearly 7 years since I became Chair, there have been some important changes. Though we still benefit greatly from the involvement of our former leaders and other emeritus faculty, there really has

been a shift in the department population structure. The scope of work done in the Department has evolved, as the field of epidemiology has evolved, with much more attention to infectious disease, genetics, and injury epidemiology, a resurgence of work in social epidemiology and epidemiologic methods, and expansion of pharmacoepidemiology on the horizon. Relative to the other leading departments in the country, we somehow manage to have both more breadth and more internal cohesiveness than any other I can think of. While we thrive on

collaborations outside the Department that pull us in many peripheral directions, we are united in our interests in the excellence of the graduate program and the advancement of the discipline of epidemiology.



Admittedly, the changes you will find in this newsletter are so profound because they cover such a long period. Not that much happens every single year, fortunately. This is the first such snapshot of who we

are, alumni, faculty, staff, and students, in a long time. To the credit of Abigail Ukwuani, who courageously took on this project and saw it through from start to finish, I have no doubt that it is the most thorough, well-written, elegant reflection of the Department that we’ve ever had. Taken in its totality, the newsletter shows the Department’s personality very clearly, which includes a good dose of fun along with the hard work. I’m amazed at how this ill-defined, poorly operationalized notion of “department character” is so real and seems to transcend the particular mix of individuals here at any given time. I hope those of you who were or are still here enjoy this as much as I have, and I hope we find the will and talent to do it again in the future!

Grant News

The North Carolina Collaborative Stroke Registry

Wayne Rosamond, associate professor of epidemiology, is leading the North Carolina Collaborative Stroke Registry team to develop 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 NC Collaborative Stroke Registry is a prototype of the Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Registry. This will examine the population where stroke occurs most often and how it is treated. This registry, one of eight CDC funded registries nationwide, has nine hospitals in nine counties in North Carolina including University of North Carolina Hospital in the study. This project runs from June 2002 to May 2004 with an award of \$1,400,000 award. For more information on the registry, please visit: www.ncstrokeregistry.org



Occupational Injuries Among Commercial Fishers

Dr. Dana Loomis, professor of epidemiology and environmental sciences and engineering, and his team are currently conducting one of only a few studies investigating the epidemiology of injuries and musculoskeletal disorders among commercial fishermen in this country. The research includes an ethnographic field study of fishing as practiced on the North Carolina coast, which entails in-depth interviews, participant observation documented by field notes, photography, and video. Another segment of the study is a prospective follow-up of a



cohort of North Carolina fishermen originally enrolled for another study, involving the use of telephone interviews and clinic visits to measure the incidence of occupational traumatic injuries and musculoskeletal disorders, as well as exposures to potential risk factors, over a two-year period. The study is being sponsored with a grant of \$833,706 from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

The Long Island Breast Cancer Study Project (LIBCSP)

This study is led by Dr. Marilie Gammon, professor of epidemiology and deputy director of the Environmental Health and Susceptibility Center, in collaboration with researchers from New York City and Long Island, New York. It has revealed that DNA damage due to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) exposure was associated with a modest 50% increase in breast cancer risk. This was a federally mandated population-based case-control study designed to determine whether selected environmental exposures are associated with the incidence of breast cancer in two counties of Long Island, Nassau and Suffolk. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons are combustion products of diesel fuel and cigarette smoke, and are also found in grilled and



smoked foods. PAH are known mammary carcinogens in rodents, and have been linked to breast cancer in women in several small studies, but the LIBCSP is the first large-scale study to report an elevation in risk. Although there was a modest elevation in risk with detectable PAH-DNA adducts, there was no increasing risk with increasing adduct levels, nor was there an association between smoking and adducts among control women. These findings were interpreted by the authors to suggest that an individual's response to the PAH exposure may be more important than the absolute dose, and was in a

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recent report published in the August 2002 issue of *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Prevention*. Continuing investigations are exploring this possibility by examining genetic susceptibility factors.

In a companion article in the same journal issue, Dr. Gammon and colleagues reported no elevation in breast cancer risk in relation to organochlorine compounds such as PCBs, an electrical insulator, or the pesticides DDT or chlordane, as measure in blood samples. Early reports had suggested a strong relation with breast cancer, but more recent studies are consistent with these results. Dr. Gammon and her collaborators are continuing to examine whether there are environmental exposures that are associated with breast cancer by evaluating the extensive data collected as part of the case-control study, by exploring gene-environment interactions, and by following up the breast cancer case women to identify potential environmental links to mortality.

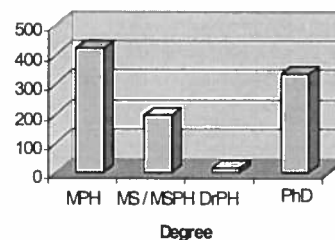
Global Network for Women's and Children's Health Research

Robert 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. This Global Network is supported jointly 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 this Network, international, multidisciplinary teams of investigators work collaboratively to answer scientific and public health questions to help improve health, and to prevent premature disease and death among women and children, primarily in developing countries. The efforts of the Global Network awardees focus on safe pregnancy and birth outcomes within the broader context of women's and young children's health.



Dr. Ryder and his departmental colleagues, Drs. Annelies Van Rie, Frieda Behets and Steve Meshnick focus on malaria, sexually transmitted infections, and tuberculosis, 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 seek antenatal care but do not receive appropriate care for these infections, although presumptive therapy with antibiotics or antimalarials and preventive therapy for tuberculosis can be effective. The antenatal visit thus represents a "missed opportunity" to improve maternal and infant health in resource-poor settings. The team therefore plans to conduct two new antenatal trials against these infections that if successful could be widely implemented in the region. First, the team will evaluate preventive therapy with azithromycin in high-risk pregnant women. Azithromycin is effective against bacterial sexually transmitted infections; however cost-effective, practical presumptive therapy regimens need to be identified. Azithromycin also has antimalarial activity in combination with sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine. The UNC investigators are hoping to improve effectiveness and delay the onset of SP-resistant malaria. Second, they will test the safety of, and compliance with, a short-course regimen for latent TB infection in HIV-positive pregnant women.

EPID Degrees Awarded, 1963 – 2002



Alumni News

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

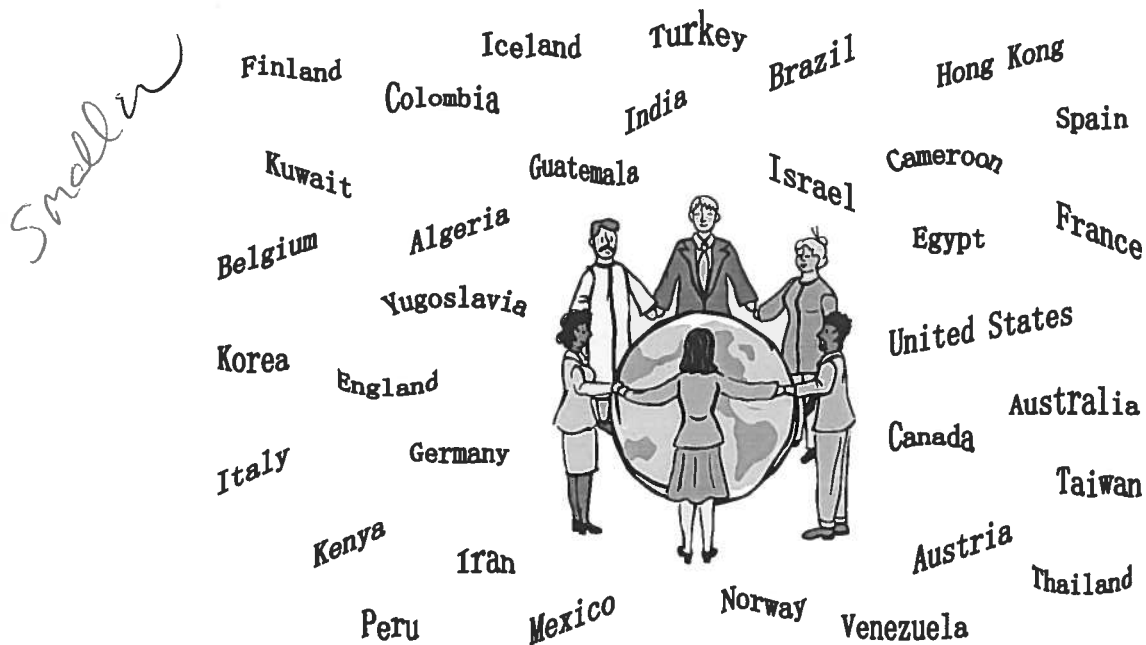
The H. A. Tyroler Distinguished Alumni Award was established by the Epidemiology Section of the SPH Alumni Association to honor Dr. H. A. Tyroler for his



vast contributions to methodologic 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, professor and vice chair of the Department of Epidemiology in

the UCLA School of Public Health. 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. He has also received four teaching awards in the Schools of Public Health at Yale University (1985) and UCLA (1989; 1997; and 1999). Dr. Morgenstern was selected from among ten outstanding nominees who were singled out by their colleagues for their achievements in the field of epidemiology.



EPID Alumni -- Where Are They Now?

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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, Maryland. 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, 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.

Steven Teutsch, MD, MPH '73 is the executive director of Outcomes Research and Management with Merck & Co. Inc. He co-authored a book *Prevention Effectiveness: A Guide to Decision Analysis and Economic Evaluation*, published by Oxford University Press.

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.

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 U.S., UnitedHealth Group.

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. 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. Edwards 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.

Beatrice Rouse, PhD '80, is coeditor for "*Portrait of Health in the United States*," a book that was 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

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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 Garrison, PhD '82, has recently been appointed the sixth president of the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

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.

Everett Logue, MSPH '77, PhD '82, is a director at the Family Practice Clinical Research Center, Summa Health System, Akron, Ohio. He also holds a joint appointment as associate professor of Epidemiology in Community Health Sciences and in Family Medicine, Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine. Logue and his colleagues are finishing 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.

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, Clinical & Molecular Epidemiology of Cancer Unit, Institut

Municipal d'Investigacio Medica (IMIM), Universitat Autonoma 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. He is also principal investigator of several federally funded studies of quality improvement in child health.

Thomas B. Cole, MD, MPH '88, serves as contributing editor, *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.

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.

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 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.

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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), Dallas, Texas. 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 RAND/Academic Medical Centers Consortium Clinical Appropriateness Initiative.

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

Becky Meriwether, MD, MPH '91, is director of the research division, Department of Family & Community Medicine at Tulane University School of Medicine, and adjunct faculty in epidemiology at the Tulane University 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.

Shelly Greenfield, MD, MPH '92, associate psychiatrist at McLean Hospital, Belmont, Massachusetts, is also the medical director, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Ambulatory Treatment Program, and Substance Abuse Consultation Service, McLean

Hospital. Greenfield is the editor-in-chief, Harvard

Massachusetts, is also the medical director, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Ambulatory Treatment Program, and Substance Abuse Consultation Service, McLean Hospital. Greenfield is the editor-in-chief, Harvard Review of Psychiatry.

Linda Frazier, MD, MPH '92, associate professor, Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, 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.

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, prevention, 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, 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 to these fields. Watson has published in the areas of the adverse effects of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents, cardiovascular risk estimation, and in various aspects of outcomes research as it relates to

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these fields. Watson has published in the areas of the adverse effects of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents, cardiovascular risk estimation, and in various 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, 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, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, UMDNJ. 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 CDC, March of Dimes, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, HRSA, ATMCH, NACCHO, and five other professional organizations.

Jong-Tae Lee, PhD '95, is assistant professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine, College of Medicine, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea.

Shine Chang, MSPH '92, PhD '95, serves as associate director for the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program. Prior to joining NCI, Chang was assistant professor in 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.

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, 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 was recently appointed assistant professor of preventive medicine in the Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University.

Yvonne Wasilewski, PhD, MPH '99, research coordinator with Research Scholar Center for Child and Family Policy, Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy, Duke University, conducts research on violence prevention intervention with middle school children as part of a multi-site CDC funded violence prevention initiative.

Penelope J. Padgett, MPH '99, is a lecturer in the Department of Biology, UNC-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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NCID/FDDB, has research interests in occupational and environmental epidemiology.

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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, 3rd year PhD student, Jacqueline Tate, 2nd year PhD student, and Sangmi Kim, entering PhD student.



Erin completed her dissertation, *Fetal Death and Maternal Exposure to Agricultural Pesticides*, under the direction of Dr. Irva Hertz-Picciotto. After completing a post-doctoral fellowship at the National Cancer Institute, she was recruited for the position of assistant professor of Epidemiology, State University of New York at Albany 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. Robin Ryder, is a re-analysis of the CDC's Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet) Salmonella case-control study using alternative control groups. Jackie is also being advised by Dr. Ryder. Her work involves evaluating HIV/AIDS intervention programs and estimating size of risk populations in Central Asia. Sangmi will join us in August and plans to pursue her interest in the epidemiology of gastric and liver cancers under the guidance of Dr. Robert Sandler.

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

CURRENT EPID ALUMNI SECTION OFFICERS

JJ Nelson	Current President
Kelly Evenson	Secretary
Kay Sanford	President Elect

Proud to Claim Four University Presidents Among our Alumni

Although most of the Department Alumni don't plan on this particular career track, the notable cluster of University Presidents, particularly in the cohort from the early 1980s is quite remarkable — a great testimony to the diverse talents of epidemiologists.

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

Heather Munroe Blum, PhD '83
Principal, McGill University

Carol Zimmerman Garrison, PhD '82
President, University of Alabama

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

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Christina Peterson, MSPH '00, PhD '03, began her post-graduate career as an EIS Officer for the CDC.

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.

Rukmini Bagchee Balu, PhD, '01, is a GlaxoSmithKline epidemiologist and collaborator in HIV Outcomes Research/US (CHORUS).

Abigail Wallis, MSPH '02 hold 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.

Lesley Butler, MSPH '98, PhD '02, recently joined the University of California, Davis, as assistant professor in the Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine Department, after completing a post-doctorial fellowship at NIEHS.

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.

Claire Newbern, PhD '02 has just joined the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Division of Disease Control as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer. She has been one of the lead CDC investigators on a multistate outbreak of listeriosis linked to sliced turkey deli meat consumption.

DECEASED ALUMNI FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

Broadhead, W. Eugene, PhD, '87
Burt, Junior Lloyd, DrPH, '63
Clark, Larry Carlyle, PhD, '81
Cordle, Frank, MPH, '67
Davis, Charles Hollis, MPH, '60
Dranke, 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
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
Shern, Roald John, MPH, '69
Sherrill, Luby Thaddeus, MPH, '65
Swisher, A Dale, MPH, '63
Todt, Margaret Ann, MPH, '63
Vine, Marilyn Frances, PhD, '88
Voors, Antonie Wouter, DrPH, '65
Wood, Jean Marie, PhD, '73

Frieda Behets, PhD, research associate professor, (October 1, 2001), conducts research in international health, with a focus on STDs. She has worked with projects in Jamaica, Egypt, Madagascar and Haiti.

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.

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.

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, 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.

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.

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).

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.

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.

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.

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, 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.



New Employees

2003

Peter DeSaix	Asst to Chair for Research
Yanfang Jiang	Computer Programmer
Lipika Vaidya	Soc Res Asst (WHI)
Molly Wen	Computer Programmer

2002

Judy Bryan	Program Asst (CHANCE)
Linda Coughlin	Physician Extender (WHI)
Dottie Howell	Administrative Asst
Linda Kalka-Juhl (WHI)	Soc Res Asst
Angie Luan	Accounting Technician
Desiree Pittman	Soc Res Asst
Kimberly Soliman	Processing Asst (WHI)
Adrienne Valesano	Soc Res Asst

2001

Brigitt Heier	Res Asst (CVD)
Andrea Lindsay	Soc Res Asst (AWWARF)
Denise Ryan	Processing Asst (WHI)

2000

Annie Ryan	Practical Nurse (WHI)
Abigail Ukwuani	Inform Communication Specialist
Katherine Watson	Admin Secretary II

STAR HEEL AWARD WINNERS

The Star Heels Award Program is administered by the Employee Services Department, Office of Human Resources. The program provides awards to individual departments in order to recognize and reward excellent employees.

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

Rachel Williams, PhD ('03) (advisor: Kathie Hartmann), received the 2001 Bryant Scholarship for the Prevention of Violence Against Women in the amount of \$5000 for recognition of commitment to the public health problem of violence against women.

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 Educational Development.

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

Gayle Shimokura, PhD student (advisor: David Weber), earned the first Thomas Wong and Susanne Moulton Endowed Scholarship for \$1250, July 2002.

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

Kristen Kucera, 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 recently 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.

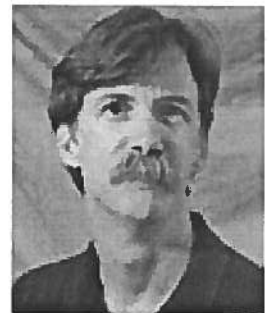
James Thomas, associate professor of epidemiology, received the Moister Fellow of Ethics award from the UNC Institute for the Arts and Humanities in



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 ensure that measures taken to protect the public's health are ethical, and to serve as a standard guide for public health institutions and practitioners.

Epidemiology faculty members **Sue West**, research associate professor, and **Harry Guess**, professor, were elected to the Board of Directors of the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology.

Dr. **Dana Loomis** was named Chair of the School of Public Health Global Health Advisory Committee. He has been a member of the committee since its inception in 2001. He also served on the SPH International Programs Committee from 1991 to 1994, a forerunner of the Office of Global Health.



Kaplan Student Publication Award goes to Dr. Anissa I. Vines

The Kaplan Student Publication Award, sponsored by the Epidemiology Section of the SPH 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

Excellence. Brigitt received her BS in Health Policy and Administration from Penn State University and plans to pursue a Masters in Public Health. As a research assistant with the Cardiovascular Disease Program, Brigitt works closely with faculty, staff and students in the day-to-day management of multiple research studies, and also helps with national and international conference presentations.



Previous recipients were:

- 2002 -- Katherine E. Watson, *Office Assistant*
- 2001 -- Nancy L. Colvin, *Asst to the Chair for Graduate Studies*
- 2000 -- Roger K. Akers, *Asst 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*

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!

LongevityCounts!

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

- Gail King, *Asst 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)*
- Lesla McPherson, *Human Resources Mgr (1980)*
- Joy Wood, *Application Analyst Programmer (1980)*
- Carmen Woody, *Student Services Mgr (1980)*
- Eileen Gregory, *Application Analyst Programmer (1982)*
- Carolyn Cooke, *Accounting Specialist (1983)*
- Judy Bryan, *Program Assistant (1984)*
- Tom Goodwin, *Application Analyst Programmer (1985)*

Student News

From ESO President, Trang Nguyen

The Epidemiology Student Organization (ESO) has had a very productive and fun year. We held an ice-cream social in conjunction with decorating a wall in the Rosenau lounge in the spirit of Halloween 2002 (John Snow never looked so good), winning our department a bagel breakfast from the Student Union Board. ESO also had its first-ever bake sale, which proved quite successful in showing off the culinary talents of the students.

ESO has been well represented on committees in the School of Public Health and the University this past semester. Sarah Landis and Kathy Ritger worked with the SPH Student Union Board, Abby Norris Turner and Aaron Wendelboe actively served in the Graduate and Professional Student Federation, and Drew Voetsch, Gerardo Bozovich and Lauren Abbate participated on the department's Graduate Studies Committee.

Finally, we closed out the year with the Epidemiology Department Social, which was a great opportunity for students, staff and faculty to bring their family, friends and other fans of Epidemiology together one last time before the summer.

Career Day

On March 28, 2003, ESO in collaboration with the epidemiology section of the SPH Alumni Association coordinated Epidemiology Career Day. Twenty-four epidemiologists, many of whom are graduates of our department, from 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. Thank you so much to all of the speakers for meeting with the students and providing much needed encouragement on life after graduation.



Participants discussing various career opportunities

FIRST EPI PROM, 2000



Garth Rauscher and Penelope Howards crowned King and Queen of Epidemiology

left, Dr. JJ Nelson, Epid alumni section president chats with Dr. Bill McDonnell at the Career Day.



right, Dr. Charlie Poole crowns Garth Rauscher the King of Epidemiology

Student News



Sharon Sagiv left, Aileen McGinn center and Melissa McPheeters at the second Epid Prom



It was dancing time at the second Epi Prom

EPI STUDENTS SET THE PACE

On April 14, 2003 ESO **SURPRISED** the staff of the Epidemiology Department. Over 40 students organized a day of singing, roses, gifts, music, and decorations to express to the staff why they are



considered the students' "**Lucky Charms.**" Everyone in Epi came in that Monday morning and found the hallway and staff offices fully 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,



with performances by Drs. Jay Kaufman and Steve Wing (EPID faculty), David Pascoe (EPID MPH student) and Pete Kimosh (MSc student in Music). The staff were thrilled by the thoughtfulness of these students. Describing the events of the day, Dr. Steve Wing had this to say, "They (students) have big hearts, human sunshine. We need more of this".



Dr. Steve Wing left, Pete Kimosh, music student and Dr. Jay Kaufman entertaining with great music during the student-sponsored staff appreciation day. see next page for quotes

Quotes of the Day on the Student Initiated Staff Recognition

“We would all fail out, be kicked out, or drop out if it were not for their consistent support and motivation”.

(Trang Nguyen, ESO President)

“Your hard work benefits us in so many ways – from making our academic lives easier to creating a positive and enjoyable departmental atmosphere to just brightening our days in general” *(Epidemiology students)*

“I have been here since 27 years and I have never seen a thing like this before”

(Jinny Reid, staff)

“It is good to be appreciated”.

(Margaret Tapp, Biostatistics staff)

“Hand me a glass of wine and cheese and I will chill out” *(Dottie Howell, staff)*

“Although I knew about the surprise, it was absolutely the nicest thing that I have seen in all my 30 years here. The entertainment, the music, the kind words, the decorations, the food, the roses, and gifts are just so very special. You all worked very hard and made us feel very appreciated. Thank you so much for being so nice, and especially for letting us know that you care”

(Gail King, department manager)

“As your plans became increasingly ambitious, my only worry was whether you could

execute the mission and from all I saw and heard, it was a spectacular success. By comparison, completing theses and dissertations should be a snap. The goodwill you generated for the Department helps greatly to make this a wonderful place to work and learn.” *(Dr.*

David A. Savitz, chair, Epid)

For additional information:

Please visit our web site at
<http://www.sph.unc.edu/epid/>

or contact

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Dept FAX: (919)966-2089

Gifts

Gifts to the Department (2000 through 2002)

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.

*Names with ** gave for 2 years while names with *** gave for all three years.*

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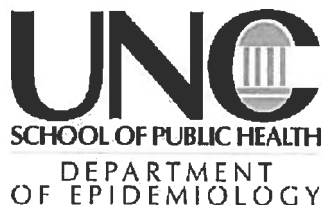
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