

2012-2013

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chair's Message	PAGE 2
Faculty News	PAGE 4
Student News	PAGE 7
Alumni News	PAGE 12
Staff News	PAGE 18
Postdoc News	PAGE 24
Career Paths	PAGE 25
Giving to EPI	PAGE 26



DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY • GILLINGS SCHOOL OF GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH • THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

In memory of Robert Millikan



A brilliant and beloved scientist left us too early. Dr. Robert Millikan, Barbara Sorenson Hulka Distinguished Professor of Cancer Epidemiology, died Sunday, October 7, 2012, at the age of 55.

A member of the epidemiology faculty at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and of UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center since 1993, Dr. Millikan's research in cancer epidemiology brought hope for better understanding and treatment of breast cancer, particularly for young African-

American women, who disproportionately die from the disease. Data from UNC Lineberger's Carolina Breast Cancer Study (CBCS), which Dr. Millikan directed for more than fifteen years, demonstrated that black women under the age of 45 are more likely to be diagnosed with

aggressive types of breast cancer than are women of European ancestry.

The CBCS Phase III, funded by the University Cancer Research Fund, the National Cancer Institute and the Komen Foundation and led by him, will result in a better understanding of this significant health disparity by collecting information about more than 3,000 women to explore biological, environmental and epidemiologic reasons for the difference in cancer incidence.

Dr. Millikan was director of the integrative health sciences facility core at the UNC Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility. He held an adjunct professorship in the College of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University. He spent the 2005-2006 academic year at University College Dublin (Ireland) as a Fulbright Scholar. In 2008, the Gillings School of Global Public Health awarded him the Hulka Distinguished Professorship.

(Read more on pages 20 and 21.)

A new master's program comes to life

Beginning in fall 2013, the Department of Epidemiology, in collaboration with North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine (NCSU CVM), will launch the Master of Public Health Program with a veterinary epidemiology concentration. The program is designed to provide graduate training for veterinarians interested in pursuing public health service-oriented careers with local, state, federal and international public health and animal health agencies. Enrolled students will take classes at both NCSU CVM and the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Students will complete a minimum of 56 credit hours in this two-year program, including the core

curriculum for a Master of Public Health from the UNC Department of Epidemiology and a minimum of six hours of additional elective specialization courses from either institution. This program supports the unique role that veterinarians can play as members of the broader public health community and in emergency program management. More information on the program can be found at www.sph.unc.edu/vet_mph.

Have you visited our website lately?
See www.sph.unc.edu/epid for the latest news
and information on upcoming seminars.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



In this issue of the departmental newsletter, we bring you updates and accomplishments from our faculty and staff members, students and alumni. The department remains strong, with high-profile and impactful research led by faculty members and students and supported by exceptional staff. Our alumni continue to influence public health at all levels, nationally and globally. We are growing our faculty after recently completed and ongoing searches in infectious disease, cancer and injury epidemiology. Those who are newly recruited will complement ongoing research and teaching efforts, strengthen ties with others at UNC and in the state of North Carolina, and will expand our portfolio in important new ways. A faculty committee has undertaken a year-long review of our methods and substantive area curricula

and training to consider how we can best prepare our students for the future. We also have established a departmental diversity and inclusion committee to ensure our department provides an inclusive and comfortable environment for everyone in the UNC epidemiology community.

This year also has seen the loss of our dear friend and colleague, Dr. Robert “Bob” Millikan. Bob was an exceptional scholar, teacher, mentor and colleague. He not only will be missed for his contributions to the department, school and university, but also the larger community, including the national breast cancer advocacy community. Our website includes a tribute and memorial page in Bob’s honor.

In memory of Bob’s significant contributions to our understanding of the epidemiology of breast cancer, we have devoted a newsletter section to highlighting our department’s research on breast cancer conducted by students and faculty. (See pages 20-23)

Bob’s former students, colleagues and friends have begun a fund in his honor, to be housed within his home department, the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health’s Department of Epidemiology.

You may contribute to the fund in one of three ways:

1. Talk personally with one of the School’s gift advisers by calling 919-966-3722.
2. Make a gift online with our secure donation form. Enter “Robert Millikan Tribute Fund” in the search field on the right side of the screen.
3. Mail your check, payable to the Public Health Foundation, to Public Health Foundation, P.O. Box 309, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514-0309. Please reference “Robert Millikan Tribute Fund” in the memo line.

As always, please send me comments and suggestions about how we can make our newsletter most valuable to you (andy_olshan@unc.edu).

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Olshan".

Dr. Andrew Olshan
Professor and Chair

LETTER FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear fellow alumni,

We are privileged to serve as your new alumni representatives, acting as liaisons among you, the Department of Epidemiology and the alumni association. It has been a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with various members of our beloved department once again. In our new roles, we will continue to work on the various established alumni activities as well as advocate for your interests. We welcome any suggestions and feedback from you as we assume these responsibilities.

Currently, we are in the selection process of awarding the 2012 H.A. Tyroler Distinguished Alumni award to one of our fellow alumni who has had a tremendous impact on the field of epidemiology. The selection committee is reviewing a great set of nominated candidates. The award will be presented during the department's annual seminar series this fall, when we also will present the alumni-association-sponsored Kaplan Student Publication Award to a deserving student.

The alumni association also is planning the annual reception for current students, faculty members, alumni and other partners at the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) meeting, to be held on June 20, in Boston at Via Matta. The reception is directly related to the association's core mission of reaching out to alumni and partners to increase awareness among students, faculty members and the School.

There are two notable Schoolwide updates. First, the university has completed its census of all alumni, and all public health students now have access to the UNC Public Health Alumni Online database (www.alumniconnections.com/sph.unc.edu). Secondly, the Gillings School of Global Public Health is gearing up for its 75th anniversary celebration in 2015. The Alumni Association's governing board is working with the School's Public Health Foundation to increase alumni engagement in these anniversary activities. There will be more communication on these efforts in the near future.

On a personal note, we are greatly saddened by the untimely passing of our beloved teacher, mentor and close friend, Dr. Robert Millikan. Bob was a brilliant researcher, a gifted educator who gave heartfelt praise to his students, a passionate advocate for breast cancer patients, a talented violinist and a humanitarian, among many other things. We miss his wise counsel, encouraging voice, sharp wit and compassionate soul tremendously. May you rest in peace, our dearest gentle friend.

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to represent you.

Sincerely,

Vani Vannappagari (MPH, 2001; PhD, 2005)
vani.x.vannappagari@gsk.com

Sumitra Shantakumar (PhD, 2006)
sumitra.y.shantakumar@gsk.com



Sumitra Shantakumar (left) and Vani Vannappagari

FACULTY NEWS

Faculty Promotions:

M. Alan Brookhart, PhD
Audrey Pettifor, PhD
Melissa Troester, PhD

Associate Professor with Tenure, effective 07/01/2012
Associate Professor with Tenure, effective 09/01/2012
Associate Professor with Tenure, effective 09/01/2012

David Richardson: Teaching Innovation Award winner



David Richardson, PhD, associate professor of epidemiology, has been selected by the department's students as winner of the School's Teaching Innovation Award. The award is given to a faculty member who "improves the learning environment by integrating new technologies, engaging students in interactive activities, employing creative assessment methods and introducing and incorporating progressive curriculum ideas into the classroom."

One faculty member from each academic unit was nominated by students to win the award, which includes a \$1,000 prize. Richardson's award was announced as part of a "Celebrate Teaching!" month, during a kickoff event on Jan. 29.

Myron Cohen named 'Tar Heel of the Year' by News and Observer



Myron Cohen, MD, professor of epidemiology, has been named one of two "Tar Heels of the Year" by the Raleigh (N.C.) newspaper, *The News and Observer*.

Cohen, who also is J. Herbert Bate Distinguished Professor of medicine, microbiology and immunology in UNC's School of Medicine and the university's associate vice chancellor for global health, was honored for his extensive research in AIDS prevention and treatment, particularly for a landmark study that showed treatment with antiretroviral therapy renders people with HIV virtually non-contagious and reduces sexual transmission of the virus by 96 percent. *The News and Observer* called Cohen "a brilliant scholar who takes big risks... [whose] reach is international but [whose] work is rooted locally at UNC-Chapel Hill."



Steve Meshnick named associate chair of epidemiology

During the fall 2012 semester, Dr. Andy Olshan, chair of the Department of Epidemiology, announced the new associate chair for the department. "It is my pleasure to announce that Dr. Steve Meshnick, professor of epidemiology and microbiology, is our new associate chair," Olshan said. "Steve's an accomplished researcher, heads our infectious disease program and is director of the T32 training program in infectious disease epidemiology. He brings a unique interdisciplinary perspective and a thoughtful and collegial approach to epidemiologic research and training. As associate chair,

he will have a critical role in helping shape the department's vision, assisting with administrative issues and leading special initiatives. He also will represent the department in the Gillings School of Global Public Health, School of Medicine and elsewhere. I very much look forward to working with Steve in this important position."

FACULTY NEWS

Siega-Riz to serve on NHLBI advisory board

Anna Maria Siega-Riz, PhD, professor of epidemiology and nutrition and associate dean for academic affairs at Gillings School of Global Public Health, has been named for a three-year term as a member of the advisory council for the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), one of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The NHLBI advisory council provides guidance to the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and to the directors of the NIH and NHLBI on matters related to the following:



- The cause, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of heart, blood vessel, lung and blood diseases;
- The use of blood and blood products and the management of blood resources
- Sleep disorders

The council also considers applications for research, research training grants and cooperative agreements and recommends funding for applications that show promise of making valuable contributions to human knowledge.

Thomas to lead MEASURE Evaluation program

James C. Thomas, PhD, associate professor of epidemiology, has been appointed director of MEASURE Evaluation, a project within the Carolina Population Center (CPC). The six-year Monitoring and Evaluation to Assess and Use Results (MEASURE) project, which continues to be the largest award received by UNC-Chapel Hill, will be funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This project will give assistance to more than 40 countries by allowing the research staff on this project to build country health information systems, train public health workers, evaluate programs, develop evaluation tools and help set international health agendas.

“I cannot imagine a more exciting and fulfilling place to be in public health,” Thomas said. “Because MEASURE Evaluation is based at UNC, we have one foot in the world of cutting-edge academics and the other in direct application of public health to those most in need. MEASURE Evaluation is based on the idea that better public health information leads to better decision making about resources, which leads in turn to better programs and better health. This is meaningful work for all of us [and constitutes] a global leadership role that the university and the state can be proud of.”

Faculty members included on Best Doctors in America list

Several physicians affiliated with the Gillings School of Global Public Health at The University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill were listed in the latest compilation of The Best Doctors in America® database. The list included the following faculty members:

- Timothy Carey, MD, *adjunct clinical professor of epidemiology, director of the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research (internal medicine);*
- Myron Cohen, MD, *professor of epidemiology (medicine);*
- Laura C. Hanson, MD, *adjunct professor of epidemiology (geriatric medicine);*
- Joanne Jordan, MD, *adjunct professor of epidemiology (rheumatology);*
- Warren P. Newton, MD, *adjunct professor of epidemiology (family medicine);*
- Matthew Nielsen, MD, *adjunct assistant professor of epidemiology (urology);*
- David B. Peden, MD, *adjunct professor of epidemiology (allergy & immunology);*
- Robert S. Sandler, MD, *professor of epidemiology (gastroenterology);*
- Nicholas J. Shaheen, MD, *adjunct professor of epidemiology (gastroenterology); and*
- Philip D. Sloane, MD, *adjunct professor of epidemiology (geriatric medicine).*

FACULTY NEWS



Horney's research increases effectiveness for post-disaster recovery efforts

A natural disaster devastates a community. In its wake, people return, aid comes in and rebuilding begins. But as lives, buildings and services are reconstructed, what benchmarks let everyone know that the recovery underway is effective? That is the focus of a new study by Jennifer Horney, PhD, research assistant professor of epidemiology and director of the UNC Center for Public Health Preparedness at the Gillings School of Global Public Health, and Philip Berke, PhD, professor of city and regional planning and deputy director of the Institute for the Environment, both at The University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

The grant, "Measuring Community Recovery: Developing Indicators for Health Community Recovery," is funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate. The study will develop and validate key indicators of community recovery after a natural disaster. Such measurable indicators of community recovery have not been developed for officials at the federal, state or local level.

"This project is particularly important because it focuses on giving practitioners at the federal, state and local levels the tools they need to measure how well a community is recovering from a disaster," Horney said.

The grant will be administered by the Coastal Hazards Center of Excellence (CHC) at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Olshan named to UNC Lineberger leadership post



Andrew F. Olshan, PhD, has been appointed UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center's associate director of population sciences. Olshan, professor and chair of epidemiology holds other leadership roles at UNC's cancer center, including serving as head of the cancer epidemiology program and director for two core units, the Biospecimens Processing Facility and the Rapid Case Ascertainment Core. He also holds a joint appointment in the School of Medicine's Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery.

In his new senior leadership role at UNC Lineberger, Olshan will oversee development of population-based cancer research and its integration throughout the cancer center's programs. He also will oversee several of the center's core resources and two established scientific programs, cancer epidemiology and cancer prevention and control.

"Dr. Olshan is an outstanding, nationally-recognized cancer epidemiologist who has conducted groundbreaking population-based studies in adult cancers as well as leading two large NCI-funded studies of childhood cancer," said Shelton Earp, MD, UNC Lineberger director. "In addition to his major role as chair of one of the country's premier epidemiology departments, he has taken time to fully interact with our prevention and control faculty, who are experts in cancer outcomes, health communication, behavioral intervention and community-based participatory prevention research."

STUDENT NEWS

Monica D'Arcy, a third-year doctoral student, attended the University of Pennsylvania for her undergraduate degree and received her master's degree from Temple University. D'Arcy has worked on several exciting projects with epidemiology faculty member Dr. Melissa Troester.

For example, D'Arcy examined gene expression in normal breast tissue from reduction mammoplasty patients and looked for patterns associated with aging. Once this data was collected, D'Arcy projected this 'age signature' onto publicly available breast tumor samples and found that tumors that were more 'young-like' tended to have poorer survival than those who were not 'young-like.' This study was based on the observation that tumors that evolve in younger women tend to be more aggressive.



Likewise, D'Arcy examined spatial and temporal trends of aggressive breast cancer in Connecticut (1990-2009) among Caucasian women. She found that overall, the incidence has increased, although it has not done so uniformly. Counties with a higher percentage of African-American women, with greater population density and more poverty, tended to start out with a higher incidence of aggressive breast cancer. However, the trend rose at a slower rate compared to counties with lower population density, smaller percentage of African-Americans and lower poverty.

Leila Family, an epidemiology doctoral student, received her bachelor's degree in psychobiology and master's degree in epidemiology from UCLA. She was enticed to the epidemiology program at UNC not only because of its rigor and reputation, but also for the opportunity to work with Dr. Bob Millikan, a renowned breast cancer researcher. Dr. Millikan began the Carolina Breast Cancer Study (CBCS) to identify women diagnosed with breast cancer from the North Carolina Cancer Registry and matched them to healthy controls from the Department of Motor Vehicles and Medicare records. This comprehensive data has allowed CBCS researchers to examine both the environmental and genetic components of breast cancer.

In 2008, Family began working as a Carolina Breast Cancer Study (CBCS) research assistant to enroll more cases. Currently the study is nearing its enrollment goals, and Family is proposing to use for her dissertation genetic data from CBCS to evaluate whether mutations in DNA bypass polymerase genes affect breast cancer risk. By better understanding how genes interact with each other in epidemiological studies, we can enhance our understanding of the causes of breast cancer.



Family is proud to be a part of CBCS. She is inspired by the study participants and definitely gets a glimpse into the lives of the participants when reviewing the study questionnaire data. Recently, Family participated in a 5K Run/Walk for Breast Cancer in Greensboro, N.C. Over the course of the race, she spoke with several women about their breast cancer experiences, including one woman who identified herself as a CBCS participant. She wholeheartedly expressed her gratitude for the work that CBCS is conducting. This was just a reminder of the impact CBCS is making in the everyday lives of women diagnosed with breast cancer.

STUDENT NEWS

Katie O'Brien, MSPH, is a doctoral candidate in epidemiology. She graduated from Williams College in 2005 with a double major in math (mostly statistics) and psychology. Prior to coming to UNC, she worked for two years as a data manager and regulatory coordinator for an oncology clinic trials group at Cornell Medical School in New York City. In this position, O'Brien learned about the clinical aspects of cancer and made the decision to pursue a career in cancer epidemiology. She completed her master's degree at UNC in 2010. Her master's project examined racial differences in breast cancer-specific mortality by breast cancer subtype, using data from the Carolina Breast Cancer Study (CBCS). Dr. Bob Millikan was O'Brien's adviser on this project.



Additionally, O'Brien worked for Dr. Millikan as a research assistant for the CBCS for several years. Currently, for her dissertation work, she is examining how several well-established genetic variants replicate in the CBCS population. More specifically, O'Brien is utilizing frequentist and Bayesian methods to examine the effects of previously identified single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) on breast cancer incidence in whites and African-Americans. The majority of the included SNPs were first identified in genome-wide association studies of breast cancer. Likewise, she is examining how these genetic risk factors vary by breast cancer subtype. Dr. Millikan and O'Brien came up with this dissertation topic together, and he maintained an active role on the project until his death. Dr. Stephen Cole is now the chair of her dissertation committee. O'Brien will graduate in May, and she just accepted a postdoctoral fellowship position at NIEHS, where she will be working on the Sister and Two Sister studies.

Nikhil Khankari is a fourth-year epidemiology doctoral student. He attended the University of Michigan for an undergraduate degree in biology and obtained a master's degree in public health from Wayne State University. Khankari decided to pursue a doctoral degree in our Department of Epidemiology based on the strong methods curriculum and research opportunities in the areas of diet, genetics and cancer. Under the mentorship of Dr. Marilie Gammon, Khankari has been fortunate to work on a couple projects examining nutrition, genetic susceptibility and breast cancer incidence.



For example, Khankari worked on a project that examined the potential interaction effects from multiple genetic pathways with regard to the association between flavonoid intake and breast cancer incidence. Flavonoids are a group of dietary compounds with anti-carcinogenic properties, which previously have been shown to reduce breast cancer risk. The overarching goal of this project was to help clarify the underlying biologic mechanisms by which flavonoids may affect breast cancer. Findings from the project currently are being reviewed as a possible journal manuscript.

Likewise, Khankari is working on his dissertation, which will examine the association between the relative balance of dietary intake of polyunsaturated fatty acids and genetic susceptibility, in relation to breast cancer incidence and survival. The major source of the beneficial fatty acids is fish. However, the major sources of fatty acids that are more likely to have an adverse effect on breast cancer include nuts and oils, such as safflower and corn oil. Khankari's study hypothesis is that consumption of higher levels of the beneficial fatty acid, coupled with lower intake of the harmful fatty acids, will be associated with a reduced risk of developing and dying from breast cancer.

STUDENT NEWS

Lexie White, a third-year doctoral student, is from Fort Collins, Colorado. She graduated from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, and prior to coming to UNC, she worked on the Sister Study, a large study of women whose sisters have been diagnosed with breast cancer.

While at UNC, White has been a research assistant with the UNC Health Registry/Cancer Survivorship Cohort, which is enrolling cancer patients who are either diagnosed or treated at UNC hospitals. From these patients, the study obtains biological samples and questionnaire data and focuses on issues of cancer survivorship. White is particularly interested in the impact of timing of breast cancer risk factors, i.e., possibly susceptible periods of time (such as puberty, time before first birth or pregnancy) when carcinogens may have a stronger impact on future breast cancer risk.

Also during her time at UNC, White has collaborated with her adviser, Dr. Marilie Gammon, to complete her master's thesis regarding exposure to pesticides and breast cancer risk in the Long Island Breast Cancer Study Project. The project investigated whether the association between pesticide exposure and breast cancer was stronger if the exposure occurred during younger ages, potentially times of greater biological susceptibility, or among hormone-receptor-positive tumors. A positive association was found between pesticide exposure and future breast cancer risk, particularly among hormone-receptor-positive tumors.

Furthermore, White has collaborated with Dr. Lisa DeRoo at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to investigate the association between physical activity at different points across the life course (childhood, teenage years and the 12 months prior to diagnosis) and DNA methylation levels, an indicator of genomic and chromosome stability that has been linked to breast cancer. Having higher levels of physical activity at all three time points was associated with increased global DNA methylation, which is thought to be protective for breast cancer risk. As she learns more, White hopes to further investigate for her dissertation environmental exposures over the life course and breast cancer risk.



STUDENT AWARDS

Departmental awards

Arrighi Scholars Award
Christina Cordero, 2012

Rebecca James Baker Scholarship
Lindsay Fernández-Rhodes, 2012

Joan Cornoni-Huntley Scholarship
Jeanette Stingone, 2012

Nancy A. Dreyer Endowed Scholarship in Epidemiology
Margaret “Kumi” Smith, 2012

Harry A. Guess/Merck Scholarship in Pharmacoepidemiology
Monica D’Arcy, 2012

Barbara Sorenson Hulka Dissertation Award
Jennifer B. Griffin, 2012

Berton H. Kaplan Student Publication Award
Ashley Naimi, 2012

Sidney Kark Award for Distinguished Teaching Assistant
Alex Keil, 2012

Marilyn and Al Tyroler Endowed Scholarship in Epidemiology
Anne Starling, 2012

School of Public Health awards

Greenberg Award for Excellence in Doctoral Research
Andrew Edmonds, 2012

Robert and Kristen Greczyn Scholarship in Public Health
Elizabeth Rogawski, 2012

Anne Cynthia Price Endowed Fund for Student Travel Award
Angela Bengtson, 2012

Robert Verhalen Endowed Scholarship in Injury Prevention/Trauma Management
Steven Lippmann, 2012

Susanne Moulton and Thomas Wong Scholarship
Monica Jimenez, 2012

UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health’s Annual Fund Scholarship
Ricky Camplain, 2012
Christina Cordero, 2012

UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health Gillings Merit Scholarship
Eboneé Butler, 2012

Graduate School awards

Dissertation Completion Fellowship
Ashley Naimi, 2012-2013

Graduate Education Advancement Board Impact Award
Brooke Hoots, 2012
Mehul Patel, 2012
Meagan Vaughn, 2012
Catherine Vladutiu, 2012
Stephanie Watkins, 2012

Graduate Tuition Incentive Scholarship
Genee Smith, 2012-2013

STUDENT AWARDS

Other UNC Awards

FLAS Fellowship

Julie O'Donnell, 2012-2013

External awards

*Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE)/
CDC Student Fellow in Unintentional Injury/
Violence*

Shabbar Ranapurwala, 2012

*Henry David Travel and Research Grants to
support travel and research examining family
planning service quality and contraceptive use
in urban areas in Kenya*

Katherine "Kat" Tumlinson, 2012



Mary Ellen James (left, mother of Rebecca James Baker) and Lindsay Fernández-Rhodes, recipient of the Rebecca James Baker Scholarship



Joan Huntley (right) with Jeannette Stingone, recipient of the Cornoni-Huntley Scholarship



Barbara Tyroler (left, daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Tyroler) with Anne Starling, recipient of the Marilyn and Al Tyroler Endowed Scholarship



Phyllis Verhalen (left) and Robert Verhalen (right) with Steven Lippmann, recipient of the Robert Verhalen Scholarship in Injury Prevention and Trauma Management

'60s

J. Earl Williams, DDS (MPH, 1962; DrPH, 1965) continues to sing in the local Columbia County State Choral Society, which he and his wife Kathy helped found in 1997. I'm also active in my church and enjoy golf.

'70s

Aaron Blair (MPH, 1976) is scientist emeritus of the National Cancer Institute.

Louise Brinton (MPH, 1972) is chief of the Hormonal and Reproductive Epidemiology Branch, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics at the National Cancer Institute. Recently, I have launched a multidisciplinary study of breast cancer in Ghana, Africa, which is an exciting and challenging venture.

James (Jim) Dale (MPH, 1975) retired from Jefferson County (Colorado) Public Health in November 2011. I now serve as the chair of the APHA Council of Affiliates and I am on the executive board of the APHA. I recently received the 2013 Alumni Recognition Award from the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Association.

LouAnne and I have three grandchildren and enjoy traveling.

Michele Forman (PhD, 1977; MSPH, 1974) is Bruton Centennial Professor and associate chair, Department of Nutritional Sciences, and adjunct in the School of Public Health, University of Texas at Austin. Also, I am the chair of the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Breast Cancer and the Environment. I am conducting research on early life exposures and age at menarche and menopause and nutritional status across the life course.

Steven Teutsch (MPH, 1973) is chief science officer in the Los Angeles County (Calif.) Department of Public Health.

'80s

Christine Branche (MSPH, 1985; PhD, 1988) is principal associate director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and director, Office of Construction Safety and Health, NIOSH at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I currently lead construction research program at NIOSH, among other things. Recently, I completed tenure

on the Board of Directors, American College of Epidemiology.

Terence Chorba (MPH, 1988) is a medical epidemiologist and branch chief, Field Services and Evaluation Branch, Division of TB Elimination at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Ga. The Field Services and Evaluation Branch oversees all of CDC's domestic TB field operations and cooperative agreements with all 50 States, ten large cities, eight territories and U.S.-affiliated Pacific Island nations.

Ann Coker (PhD, 1989) is endowed chair and professor at the University of Kentucky. I gave the 2012 Wade Hampton Frost Lecture, awarded by the APHA epidemiology section. My lecture, entitled "Role of Epidemiology in Prevention of Violence Against Women," was presented in San Francisco. My oldest son, Zachary Joyner, graduated from Appalachian State University, married Sydney Jones, and they both live and work in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Miquel Porta (MPH, 1984) is a professor at IMIM/UAB and adjunct professor at the Gillings School of Global Public Health. I am affiliated with the Hospital del Mar Insti-

tute of Medical Research (IMIM) and School of Medicine, Univ. Autònoma de Barcelona and am working on *A Dictionary of Epidemiology*, 6th edition (2014).

Jerome Wilson (PhD, 1983) is senior biomedical scientist/epidemiologist at KAI Biomedical Associates. I am on the Pharmacogenomics Task Force and a reviewer for Value Health Journal.

'90s

Cande Ananth (PhD, 1995) is a professor of reproductive sciences and epidemiology at Columbia University.

Tye Arbuckle (PhD, 1994) is senior epidemiologist and research scientist, Health Canada.

H. Michael Arrighi (PhD, 1992) is senior director, epidemiology, Janssen Research & Development, focusing on Alzheimer's disease, in particular, characterizing early cognitive impairment prior to frank dementia. After an absence of 30 years, I returned to my 'homeland,' the San Francisco Bay Area. My office is located in South San Francisco, so named 'The Industrial City,' at least according to the big sign on the hill. My wife

ALUMNI NEWS

and I live north of San Francisco in Marin County, across the Golden Gate Bridge.

Lorraine Backer (MPH, 1993) is a senior scientist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I've recently wrapped up the National Center for Environmental Health's harmful algal blooms (HABs) research program. We are adding a module to CDC's National Outbreak Reporting system specifically for HAB-related illnesses and outbreaks. We are currently developing an initiative to create a new program to address public health issues associated with using private wells for drinking water.

Dennis Clements (MPH, 1988; PhD, 1990) is senior adviser and professor of the Global Health Institute and Department of Pediatrics at Duke University. I am developing programs in Ghana and Central and South America for the Duke Global Health Institute. Along with Martha Ann Keels, my wife and a UNC SPH graduate, we will be in Spain in the beginning of April for our daughter Meredith's wedding to Chris Waldon (a UNC law student graduate). They have been living in England for several years where Meredith is practicing medicine and Chris is

a solicitor. Gillian Clements (our oldest daughter) married Alex Popescul in Sonoma, Calif., last fall, and our third daughter Morgan married Bryan Duquette in Big Sur, Calif., two years ago. The nestlings have fledged.

Antonio Cunha (MPH, 1992; PhD, 1996) is a full professor, pediatric department, School of Medicine and vice-rector (Vice-chancellor), Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. I continue conducting research in child health and advising graduate students. My daughter Irene, who studied in Glenwood Elementary School in Chapel Hill, gave us a beautiful granddaughter named Alice. She is expecting a second baby, also a girl.

Pierre Duhaut (MPH, 1991) is professor of Internal Medicine at Jules Verne University of Picardie and University Hospital, Amiens, France.

John Grabenstein (PhD, 1999) is an executive director, medical affairs & policy, Merck Vaccines. I've just been promoted to executive director of medical affairs & policy for Merck Vaccines. I lead medical-affairs and scientific-policy activities for Merck's global vaccine enterprise of > 125 million vaccine doses annually, to help reduce

the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases worldwide. A pharmacist with more than 30 years' experience, I've published over 300 articles and eight books, primarily on topics of immunization, public health, and leadership. Cheers to all, John.

Ingrid Hall (MPH, 1998) is team lead and lead epidemiologist at the CDC.

Paige Hornsby (MSPH, 1987; PhD, 1992) is assistant professor at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. I will be teaching two courses (Introduction to Global Public Health and Health Research Methods) on the 'Semester at Sea' summer 2013 voyage in the Mediterranean.

Joanne Jordan (MPH, 1991) is director, Thurston Arthritis Research Center and chief, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology at UNC. She directs the Johnston County (N.C.) Osteoarthritis (OA) Project; chairs the Chronic Osteoarthritis Management Initiative of the U.S. Bone and Joint Initiative to change practice paradigm for OA and consider it proactively as common chronic disease; chairs Revision of Guidelines for Conduct of Clinical Trials in Osteoarthritis for the Osteoarthritis Research Society Inter-

national; edits special issues on pain in osteoarthritis for journal *Osteoarthritis and Cartilage*; is a member of communications and marketing committee of American College of Rheumatology. My first child married in June 2012; empty nesters with youngest child a sophomore in college.

Sheila Kinty (MPH, 1995) is retired but teaching veterinary assistant program at a local community college.

Patricia Moorman (MSPH, 1989; PhD, 1993) is associate professor at Duke University School of Medicine.

Pam Schreiner (PhD, 1992) is professor, Division of Epidemiology & Community Health at the University of Minnesota and program director of the epidemiology MPH major. I am principal investigator of the CARDIA Study and also a ten year volunteer at the Animal Humane Society.

Christine Schuler (PhD, 1999) is a research epidemiologist, CDC/NIOSH.

Verna Lamar Welch (PhD, 1998) is senior director/team leader of the Outcomes Research Scientist Team at Pfizer Inc.

'00s

Alia Al-Tayyib (MSPH, 2005; PhD, 2007) is assistant research scientist, Denver Public Health. All is well in Denver! No major life events to report. My kiddos are now 4 and 2 and keep me on my toes.

Julius Atashili (MPH, 2005; PhD, 2009) is lecturer of epidemiology, University of Buea, Cameroon. Training epidemiologists and researchers at both graduate and undergraduate levels. Fostering research on HIV and other infectious diseases in Africa.

Suzanne Belinson (PhD, 2007) is associate director, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.

Lesley Butler (MSPH, 1998; PhD, 2001) is associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh.

Mercedes Carnethon (MSPH, 1998; PhD, 2000) is associate professor at Northwestern University. I was appointed director of the Division of Epidemiology in September 2012. I had a son, Aston McKinley Coleman III, on Oct. 20, 2012.

April Carson (MSPH, 2001; PhD, 2006) is assistant professor at the

University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Cindy Chang (PhD, 2007) is an epidemiologist, Center for Tobacco Products, FDA. I had my second daughter in 2012. She joins her big sister who is 4 years old.

Kristal Chichlowska (PhD, 2009) is director of the California Tribal Epidemiology Center, California Rural Indian Health Board. My second child, Natalia Rae, was born on June 27, 2011.

Suzanne Cloutier (MSPH, 2000) is senior monitoring and evaluation adviser at John Snow Inc.

Theresa Cruz (PhD, 2008) is research assistant professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of New Mexico.

Anneclaire De Roos (PhD, 2000) is associate professor, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at Drexel University School of Public Health. I started a position at Drexel University SPH in January of this year. I'll be continuing my research in environmental and occupational risk factors for cancer and other chronic diseases, and I'll be developing a new course in Risk Assessment, to be taught next year. I've relocated

to Philadelphia, after almost 10 years living in Seattle. I was ready for a change, and this is a big one. My husband and I (the marriage is fairly new too, as of summer 2011) are absolutely loving the adventure of being in a new city. Philadelphia is so interesting in terms of its history and architecture, and there is plenty of fantastic food, art and music. We also love the east coast vibe and the outgoing nature of the people we've met. There's better access to many epidemiology meetings from the east coast, so I hope to make it to more of those.

Sherry Farr (MSPH, 2000; PhD, 2004) is an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Michael Forlenza (MPH, 2005) is founder and leadership development coach at DPL Coaching & Consulting. After six years, I recently left my position as assistant dean in the School of Leadership at Duquesne University to start my own coaching and consulting firm. We focus on leadership development, and I would love to work with public health leaders!

Kyna Gooden (PhD, 2006) is an epidemiologist at Bristol-Myers Squibb.

Tegwyn Hughes (PhD 2002) is associate professor and chair, Department of Pediatric Dentistry, at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry and chair of the Virginia Oral Health Coalition. The Virginia Oral Health Coalition is an alliance of individuals and organizations committed to bringing excellent oral health to all Virginians through policy change, public awareness and innovative new programs. I have two daughters, Cara (7) and May Belle (5) who love Tar Heel basketball.

Sarah Keim (PhD, 2009) is assistant professor of pediatrics and epidemiology, Nationwide Children's Hospital/Ohio State University.

Trang Nguyen (PhD, 2005) is an epidemiologist, San Francisco Department of Public Health.

David Pascoe (MPH, 2003) is a dermatologist at Skin and Cancer Associates located in Tallahassee, Fla.

Christy Porucznik (MSPH, 2000; PhD, 2003) is assistant professor at the University of Utah School of Medicine. I was recently appointed director of Women in Medicine and Science

ALUMNI NEWS

for the University of Utah School of Medicine and am anticipating tenure review in the upcoming year.

Katrina Trivers (MSPH, 2003; PhD, 2006) is an epidemiologist, Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, CDC. I'm enjoying my work as an epidemiologist at the CDC. My research focuses primarily on breast and ovarian cancer in young/high-risk women, including prevention and survivorship issues. I got married in October 2010 and had a baby girl (Lilith) in June 2012. She fills our life with lots of fun and adventure!

Aaron Wendelboe (PhD, 2006) is assistant professor of epidemiology,

University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Currently working toward achieving my career goals of bridging academic and applied public health. I am engaged in conducting research on influenza vaccination coverage and herd immunity. I enjoy helping students find positions working with the state and county health departments. Ann Chou-Wendelboe and I are pleased to announce the birth of our son, Ian William Wendelboe, on April 23, 2012. He joins his older brothers, Mark and Ammon.

Daniel Westreich (MSPH, 2005; PhD, 2008) is assistant professor, Duke University. After several years in the dark blue wilderness, I am very excited to start as

an assistant professor of epidemiology at UNC on May 1.

Marcel Yotebieng (PhD, 2009) is research assistant professor, Department of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I am doing research on infectious diseases with focus on HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis and their impact on maternal and child health. Two lovely children - a boy and a girl.

'10s

Marit Bovbjerg (PhD, 2010) is a postdoctoral fellow, Oregon State University.

Emily Brouwer (PhD, 2012) is assistant profes-

sor of pharmacy practice and science and epidemiology, University of Kentucky. I'm active in the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology.

Ghassan Hamra (PhD, 2011) is a postdoctoral fellow, International Agency for Research on Cancer. Researching cancer risks associated with environmental, occupational and medical sources of radiation exposure. Exploring all things francophone, including but not limited to snowboarding in the Alps, wine drinking and esoteric meats.

Sirin Yaemsiri (MSPH, 2010; PhD, 2012) is an epidemiologist, CDC/NCHS.



May Belle (left) and Cara (right), two daughters of Tegwyn Brickhouse (Class of '02), who love Tar Heel basketball.



Rachel Williams (Class of '03) with family in France.



Sheila Kinty (Class of '95) in Jamaica.

EPIDEMIOLOGY IN ACTION



EPIDEMIOLOGY IN ACTION



STAFF NEWS

New Hires for 2012-2013

SPA New Hires

Tamara Watson	Social/clinical research assistant
Phyllis Johnson	Social/clinical research specialist
Julie Rusyniak	Social/clinical research assistant
Kyaw Thwai	Research technician
Mamie Turner	Social/clinical research assistant

EPA Non-Faculty New Hires

Sylvia Kabisa	Biostatistics research manager
---------------	--------------------------------

Retired, but not forgotten...

SPA Retirements

Beth Kroll, social/clinical research Assistant	12/31/2012
Carolyn Cooke, fiscal office manager	04/01/2013
Thomas Goodwin, applications specialist	04/01/2013

EPA Retirements

Susanne Wolf, research associate	03/01/2013
----------------------------------	------------

Employee Service Award Milestones

Brenda Clark - 5 years of service
Robert Goetze - 5 years of service
Beth Kroll - 5 years of service
Katherine Borron - 10 years of service
David Hunt - 15 years of service
Thomas Hudgins - 35 years of service
Phyllis Johnson - 35 years of service

Retired Service Award

Mary Gregory (retired) - 30 years of service



Kathy Wisniewski and David Kleckner chat during a department gathering.

2012 Epidemiology Staff Excellence Award - Richard (Dick) Howard



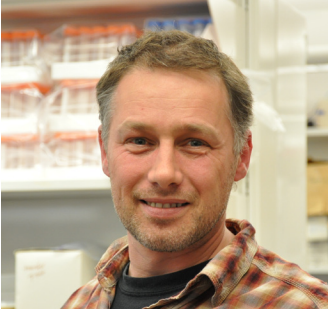
Dick Howard, a systems specialist serving the cardiovascular disease (CVD) group at the Bank of America building, has more than 22 years of university experience. Without a doubt, Howard has played an influential role in the success of his colleagues and the CVD group.

Howard's co-workers describe him as extremely productive, innovative, hard-working, resourceful, well-organized and responsible. He is a reliable cornerstone for many complex research projects. Howard's technical skills are unsurpassed, and he is constantly sought out as the local expert on data management and system needs. He fulfills his obligations on time with incredible attention to detail and completeness. Though he is continually presented new challenges outside his current expertise, Howard accepts each challenge without hesitation or complaint.

The most frequently cited skill that Howard possesses is professionalism. He communicates effectively and treats everyone with respect and kindness. He also has an extremely pleasant demeanor, works well with people of all ranks and has loads of patience, despite dealing with an overload of work and last-minute deadlines. Howard provides consistent support to all facets of the CVD group, even if it involves tackling tough problems.

STAFF NEWS

2012 Department of Epidemiology Star Heel Awards



Hendrik Dejong

Everyone who either works at or has contact with the BioSpecimen Processing (BSP) Core Facility depends on and enjoys working with Hendrik Dejong. Dejong has worked in the BSP for the past four years. During this time, he has quickly become the “go-to” person for everyone in the lab for day-to-day issues. Being an employee of a core laboratory facility can be very stressful. But Dejong takes this stress in stride and tries his utmost to insure that rush projects are taken care of to the best of his ability. Those who work directly with Dejong find that he has a wonderful teaching style. He is patient, flexible and takes care to make everyone aware of the theory behind the laboratory protocols. Innovation is one of Dejong's strongest assets, and he is continuously suggesting ways to streamline the operations in the BSP lab.

Jennifer Moore

Jennifer Moore is an accounting technician serving faculty members and students throughout the department. She has more than thirteen years of university experience. Her responsibilities in the business office include management of faculty research accounts and international contracts, which require her unique knowledge and communication skills, as well as her ability to learn quickly and execute her various tasks effectively. Moore is helpful toward faculty and staff members as they learn the workings of the business office, and she often searches (successfully!) for new ways to make everyone's life easier by finding more efficient ways to process the mounds of paperwork. One of her colleagues wrote that “the camaraderie that Moore has established with staff [at the UNC Office of Sponsored Research] among other UNC departments speaks to her willingness and devotion” to ensure that collaboration remains healthy within the Department of Epidemiology and across the university.



Thomas (Terry) Hudgins

Hudgins is an IT support specialist serving the Bank of America building. His task is to deal with constant computer emergencies by anxious staff and faculty members. Hudgins has an impressive set of technical skills across a wide range of platforms. Still, when presented with a new challenge, he relishes the opportunity to expand his knowledge base. Hudgins is willing to brainstorm ideas to solve problems using alternative approaches and provide custom solutions when warranted. Hudgin's co-workers describe him as hard-working, attentive, respectful and pleasant to work with all the time. His most impressive skill has been his flexibility to work many late nights and weekends on users' computers to avoid disrupting their research during the work day.

CANCER EPIDEMIOLOGY

Tribute to Dr. Robert Millikan

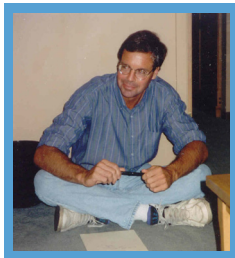


My life has been better for knowing this gentle brilliant humble guy Bob and I know our community has been left for the better by him.

–Matt McKinnon

He clearly touched many lives and enriched all of those who had the privilege to know him and appreciate his fine character. He is deeply missed and mourned.

–Christine Friedenreich



His smile radiated a gentle-spirit that will be greatly missed.

–Joanne Lee

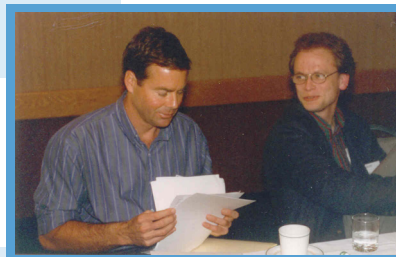
I feel honored to have met and worked with this good man.

–Luenda Charles



Bob most valued his special ability to impart wisdom and kindness to others through his teaching, mentoring, work with the advocacy community, church and the rowing team.

–Andy Olshan



Bob was a gentleman, whom I greatly respected for his scientific intellect, friendly nature and easy-going character.

–Liam Gallagher



I am the scientist that I am today because of his training, guidance and support. He had a passion for the science, and an even greater compassion for the people it served.

–Sandy Deming Halverson



Dr. Millikan had remarkable breadth in his approach to disease and the health of the public. His encyclopedic knowledge of epidemiology, breast cancer and melanoma were fully matched by his compassion for and understanding of all aspects of health disparities.

–Dean Barbara Rimer

CANCER EPIDEMIOLOGY



He was humble about his career and its impact. He was beloved for his character,
-Amelia Drake



Bob was—and will remain—a continuing inspiration to strive for excellence and clear thinking in all endeavors and to bring kindness and generosity to the diverse communities that make up our lives.

-Chris Martin



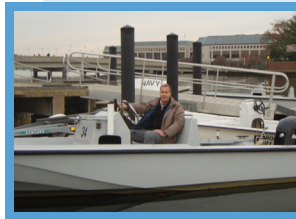
My life has been better for knowing this gentle brilliant humble guy Bob and I know our community has been left for the better by him.

-Matt McKinnon



Bob was one of a kind. He always went the extra mile to help people, both professionally and personally.

-Larry Kupper



Bob taught me the power of intellect and the importance of integrity.

-Dr. Steve Marshall

I fondly remember him as one of the best instructors I have ever had and always try and hold myself to the standard that I felt he set for teaching.

-Eric Pevzner

I admired his humility as well as his ability to see potential in others.

-Tope Keku



His compassion for mankind was endless.

-Jody Gray

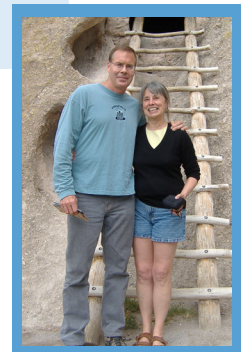


He cared deeply about the less fortunate, disparity and the environment.

- Nancy Thomas

He wanted everyone to succeed – his students, his colleagues, his friends.

-Marianne Berwick



Bob is one of those very rare people who embodied both brilliance and humility.

-Ghassan Hamra

Troester's research makes strides to tackle breast cancer

In recent years, genomic methods have led to reconceptualization of breast cancer as several phenotypically distinct diseases, not one disease. This important advancement has exposed gaps in our biologic and epidemiologic understanding of breast cancer. Dr. Bob Millikan's research made major advances in helping to close these gaps. For example, in 2009, a paper by Millikan and colleagues showed that while pregnancy is protected from the majority of breast cancers, pregnancy increases risk of aggressive basal-like breast cancers. Millikan also documented that basal-like breast cancer has complex relationships with obesity. These observations fueled research in Dr. Melissa Troester's laboratory, funded by a grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS).

As part of the NIEHS Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Program, Dr. Troester is leading a project entitled Pregnancy, Obesity and Basal-like Microenvironments. The research project uses an interdisciplinary approach, including observational studies with human tissues and experimental studies with human cells and genetically engineered mouse models. The studies in this project underscore that reducing obesity may be an important strategy in preventing breast cancer, particularly in the postpartum period, during which many women are susceptible to weight gain.

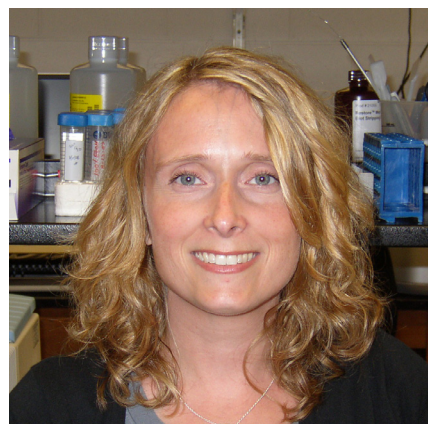
To advance biomarker research on normal breast tissue, Troester initiated a partnership with surgical oncologist Dr. Keith Amos in 2009. The collaboration led to the Normal Breast Study, a unique study of normal breast tissue conducted among women undergoing breast surgery at UNC Hospitals. The primary collection of tissues now includes roughly 500 normal breast tissue specimens. It was funded by the Avon Foundation, a National

Cancer Institute (NCI) contract and a University Cancer Research Fund Innovation Award. The project is advancing scientific discovery related to normal breast biology and breast cancer microenvironment.

This project is among the largest study to date focused on biology and epidemiology of normal breast tissue by incorporating innovative biospecimen processing. In addition, participants are racially diverse, representative of North Carolina, allowing assessment of the role of tumor microenvironment in breast cancer disparities. This data, together with genomic data and multiple histologic images per patient, will allow for a comprehensive "atlas" of human breast biology as it relates to breast cancer.

As a result of her research focus on normal breast tissue, Dr. Troester was asked to chair the Cancer Genome Atlas Project's investiga-

tion of mutations, copy number alterations, expression differences and methylation changes in normal tissue adjacent to breast cancer. Troester's work in biomarker development and breast cancer genomics underscores the continuing legacy at UNC of conducting interdisciplinary cancer research at the interface of molecular biology and epidemiology. "Bob Millikan's research exemplified the breakthroughs that can occur in cancer research when biologists and epidemiologists work together," Troester said. "We are committed to this approach at UNC."



Dr. Troester discusses breast cancer factors with UNC colleagues.

Gammon brings awareness to other factors of breast cancer

Breast cancer epidemiology has been a primary research interest of Dr. Marilie Gammon for more than 25 years. She is interested in identifying factors that can be modified in an effort to reduce the risk of developing or dying from breast cancer. Gammon studies two major groups of potentially modifiable factors: (1) environmental agents – many of which are modifiable through societal changes in policy or law and (2) components of energy balance, most of which are modifiable through changes in individual behavior.



Photo by Tom Fuldner

Environmental Agents. Dr. Gammon's research group has been on the forefront of examining whether the risk of breast cancer incidence is adversely associated with environmental exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). PAHs are ubiquitous in the general environment and are known lung carcinogens, but their impact on breast carcinogenesis remains unclear. To determine whether PAHs are adversely associated with breast cancer risk, Gammon's group has assessed PAH exposures using multiple measures at multiple levels. For example, they first examined whether breast cancer risk is associated with PAH-DNA adducts, which are a measure of internal dose of PAH exposure assessed in peripheral blood samples. They reported a 25 percent to 35 percent increase in the risk of breast cancer associated with PAH-DNA adducts, which appears to be stronger when they considered variations in genes in the DNA repair pathway. Gammon's group also has examined breast cancer in relation to major sources of PAH exposure among the general, non-occupationally exposed population – including active cigarette smoking, intake of grilled/smoked foods, residential exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, vehicular traffic and indoor wood/coal-burning stoves. They have reported an increase in breast cancer risk for active smoking among women with hormone responsive breast cancer, the most commonly diagnosed tumor type among American women. Furthermore, Gammon's group reported elevated risks in association with grilled/smoked foods, but risks were highest among women who reported eating little or no fruits and vegetables. Antioxidants, which are a common constituent of fruits and vegetables, have been found to mitigate the carcinogenic effects of PAHs on mammary tumors in experimental models. Gammon's recent research efforts in this area focuses on examining the risk of breast cancer in association with estimates of historical vehicular traffic, derived from geographic models, and with use of indoor stoves.

Energy Balance. Gammon's research group also has devoted considerable effort on examining how breast cancer incidence and survival are affected by components of energy balance, including obesity, physical activity and dietary intake. For example, they have found that weight gain over the life course, particularly during middle age, adversely impacts a woman's chances of developing breast cancer. Weight gain after a breast cancer diagnosis negatively impacts survival. In contrast, women who are physically active across their adult lives have a reduced risk of developing and dying from breast cancer. Also, the strongest risk reductions are observed among women who are physically active and have not gained weight. With regard to diet, the data report decreased risks for incidence and mortality associated with intake of fruits and vegetables, flavonoids (strong anticarcinogens found in fruits and vegetables), folate and choline, but increased risks associated with foods involved in glucose metabolism.

Recent efforts focus on trying to consider the impact on breast cancer incidence of these nutritional factors simultaneously, and their interactions with genetic polymorphisms in multiple pathways, using hierarchical regression. For the last decade, Gammon and her colleagues have examined breast cancer incidence and mortality in relation to the role of DNA methylation – which can be influenced by exogenous or endogenous factors -- in relation to breast cancer risk and the association with folate intake. Future research will expand these activities to consider the role of DNA methylation on other components of energy balance in relation to breast cancer.

POSTDOCTORAL NEWS

Insight from current post-docs



Dr. Kate Clouse began working as a postdoctoral researcher with Dr. Annelies Van Rie in October 2012, upon completing UNC's epidemiology program. During the doctoral program, she was based in Johannesburg, South Africa, for more than two years, working at the Health Economics and Epidemiology Research Office and collecting primary data for her dissertation. Her research interests include HIV dissemination and implementation science, with a particular emphasis on patient retention in care and TB/HIV integration in South Africa. Happy to be back in N.C., Clouse spends her free time house-hunting in Durham, running, and visiting family members in Asheville.



Dr. Leah McGrath began a postdoc with Dr. Alan Brookhart in January 2013. She is looking forward to continuing her doctoral research on developing methods to estimate influenza vaccine effectiveness, using administrative claims data. She also plans to begin new projects involving the safety and effectiveness of various childhood vaccines, including the rotavirus vaccine. "It's an exciting time to be working in this area, as many new vaccines are being approved," McGrath said. "I'm hoping to use my time as a postdoc to expand my research into some of these newer vaccines." In her spare time, she enjoys hiking and trying out new recipes.



Dr. Bradley Layton is a new postdoc in pharmacoepidemiology. He completed his doctorate at UNC under Dr. Alan Brookhart, where his dissertation research focused on the renal effects of statin medications. That research has expanded to include methodological aspects of working in large insurance-claims datasets and propensity score methods for comparative effectiveness research. He received an NIH R01, along with colleagues at UNC and in Switzerland, to study the safety of testosterone supplementation in older men in various populations around the world. Layton is an avid musician. He sings with the North Carolina Master Chorale (a Raleigh-based symphony chorus), is heavily involved in his church's music programs and occasionally accompanies UNC music students at recitals and competitions on the piano and harpsichord.

Epidemiology By The Numbers (Fall 2012)

#Applications Received/Admitted (Fall 2012):

	<i>PhD</i>	<i>MSPH/PhD</i>	<i>MPH</i>	<i>MSCR</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Received</i>	173	42	22	7	244
<i>Admitted</i>	49	12	5	7	73

Spotlight on young alumni: Trish Moorman, PhD (MSPH, 1989 ; PhD, 1993)

What are you up to these days?

I am an associate professor in the Department of Community and Family Medicine at Duke University, where I have worked for the last 12 years. Currently my work is a mix of research, teaching and administrative responsibilities. My main research projects are a multicenter, case-control study of ovarian cancer in African-American women and a cohort study of hormonal changes after pre-menopausal hysterectomy.

What brought you to Carolina?

I first moved to North Carolina in the mid-1980s when my husband took a job in RTP. I was working as a pharmacist at the time, but knew that I wanted return to graduate school. Although I initially began looking at programs in the UNC School of Pharmacy, none seemed to be a good match with my interests. Fortunately, one of the faculty members in the pharmacy school suggested that I should go next door to the School of Public Health to investigate their degree offerings. As is so often the story in our field, epidemiology was not on my radar screen as a career, but once I discovered it, I knew it was what I wanted to do.

What were your research interests at Carolina?

My ongoing research interests, in women's health and racial disparities in health outcomes, began during my student days. Al Tyroler was adviser on my master's project, a study of differences between African-Americans and whites in hypertension outcomes, which heightened my awareness of inequalities in health outcomes. For my dissertation research, I blended my interests in cardiovascular and cancer epidemiology by looking at HDL-cholesterol in relation to breast cancer. The interest in breast cancer epidemiology nurtured by Barbara Hulka and Beth Newman has continued throughout my career.

During my last year in the doctoral program, I helped to write the application for the first-ever SPORE grant in breast cancer, which included the project that became the Carolina Breast Cancer Study (CBCS). The CBCS investigators included Beth Newman, Ed Liu, Bob Millikan and Kathy Conway, all of us early in our careers. I'm sure that at the time, none of us would have predicted the impact of the study – the discoveries that emerged from it related to breast cancer in African-American and white women, the number of papers published, and the number of degrees granted based on analyses from the study. And I, for one, never imagined that the CBCS would still be going strong 20 years after we started it!



GIFTS TO THE DEPARTMENT

Gifts to the department (July 1, 2012, to February 28, 2013)

The Department of Epidemiology wishes to thank the individuals and corporations whose donations provide the much-needed funds to support graduate education.

We are grateful for your continued support.

Individuals

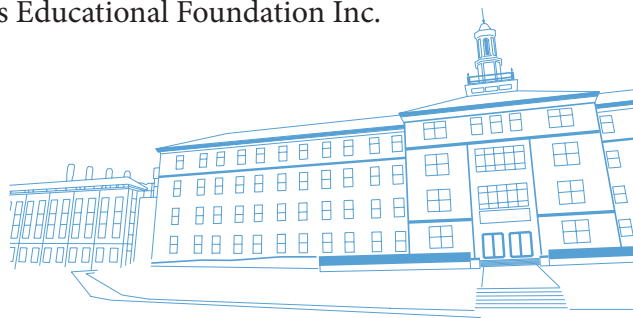
Barbara and H. Michael Arrighi (PhD '92)
Mary Elizabeth Bell
Joe M. Braun (MSPH '08, PhD '10)
Louise Annette Brinton (MPH '72)
Leigh Fleming Callahan
Daniel Jonathan Caplan (PhD '95)
Shine Chang (MSPH '92, PhD '95)
Joann C. Cook
Ralph R. Cook
Francoise Marie Cornet
Charles H. Davis Jr.
Kourtney Johnston Davis (MSPH '95, PhD '97)
Nancy Dole (PhD '01)
Nancy Ann Dreyer (MPH '76, PhD '79)
Lindsay Erin Fernandez-Rhodes (MSPH '11)
Michele Robin Forman (MSPH '74, PhD '78)
Lisa Fredman (MSPH '84, PhD '86)
Daniel Benjamin Fried (PhD '98)
Francesca Turchi Fried
Patricia Natzke Gadow
Gary Norman Greenberg (MPH '84)
Geraldine G. Guess
Susan Audrey Hall (PhD '03)
Susan Lee Hartmaier (PhD '93)
Gerardo Heiss (PhD '77)
Jo Eaddy Heiss
Ellen Henak
Robert Henak
Elizabeth Hodgson (MSPH '00, PhD '09)
Carol Rowland Hogue (MPH '71, PhD '74)
Richard H. Holmes
Penelope Page Howards (PhD '04)
Christine Marie Hunt
Vernon Brock Hunt (MPH '75)
Joan Cornoni-Huntley (MPH '62)
Barbara Ingram
Robbin F. Itzler
Jonathan V. James
Mary Ellen James
Thomas V. Jones (MPH '90)
Mary Brenda Joyner
William H. Joyner Jr.
Julian Eugene Keil (DrPH '75)
Sheila Marlene Kinty (MPH '95)
Helen Rosalie Kohler (PhD '75)
Clara N. Lee
Linda C. Levitch
Stephen William Marshall (PhD '98)
Robert Martin
Pradhana Mastro
Timothy Mastro
David Andrew McKay (MPH '73)
Leah Elizabeth Mechanic (MPH '01)
William Clarence Miller (MPH '97)
Dina Miyoshi
Christine Lorraine Moe
Laura Kaye Moorhead
Patricia Griпка Moorman (MPH '89, PhD '94)
Hal Morgenstern (PhD '78)
William Bernard Nesor (DrPH '71)
Andrew F. Olshan
Marie Sylvia O'Neill (PhD '00)
I-Jen Pan (PhD '08)
Sheryl Lynne Parker (MSPH '94)
Wolfgang Resch
Whitney Robinson (MSPH '04, PhD '08)
Patricia D. Saddier (MSPH '92, PhD '97)
Sara Moir Sarasua (MSPH '90)
Anna Pittman Schenck (PhD '97)
James Simpson Schenck IV
Marion Eldredge Schoenbach
Victor Julian Schoenbach (PhD '79)
Ruth Ann Shults (PhD '99)
Gregg Martin Stave (MPH '90)
Cheryl Randy Stein (MSPH '02, PhD '06)
David Stanton Strogatz (MSPH '78, PhD '83)
Rosalind Patricia Thomas
Shirley Jean Thompson (PhD '72)

GIFTS TO THE DEPARTMENT

Katrina Foss Trivers (MSPH '03, PhD '06)
Mark Andrew Turner
Melissa Norman Turner (MSPH '04)
William J. Tyroler
Anna Estelle Waller
Emmanuel Benjamin Walter (MPH '92)
Ganesa Rebecca Wegienka (PhD '02)
Elizabeth Megan Weinstein
Alice Dickey White (MSPH '85, PhD '87)
Allen James Wilcox (PhD '79)
Sirin Yaemsiri (MSPH '09, PhD '12)

Corporations/Foundations/Organizations

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
GlaxoSmithKline - Philadelphia
Joan and Robert Huntley Charitable Foundation
Tellus Educational Foundation Inc.



Giving to the department

Every gift to the Department of Epidemiology and the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health makes a world of difference. As one of the top departments of epidemiology, we conduct cutting-edge research that will improve and save the lives of millions of people around the world. Your support also helps us to educate future public health leaders. At a time when state and federal sources of funding are diminishing and financial aid funds are more difficult to come by, private support from alumni and friends – like you – is critical as we strive to be the leading department of epidemiology in the nation.

Your tax-deductible gift will:

- Provide financial aid and scholarships, attracting the most promising epidemiology graduate students – the future leaders in public health;
- Help retain top-tier faculty and recruit international epidemiology scholars and distinguished researchers;
- Support cutting-edge programs and first-class teaching and research;
- Provide students with funding for travel and field placements; and
- Provide support and unrestricted resources for the department's areas of greatest need.

Giving online is safe, easy and timesaving. You can make a secure gift online at giving.unc.edu/gift/sph, then follow the additional instructions provided below.

1. You will be directed to the School's online donation form, which accepts gifts to all UNC departments and funds.
2. From the box labeled "Please select a fund," select "Epidemiology (4460)" or "Other" to search for a particular fund.
3. Enter the amount you would like to give and click "Add to Cart."

Your continued financial support is greatly appreciated!

Department of Epidemiology
Gillings School of Global Public Health
CB# 7435, 2101 McGavran-Greenberg Hall
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7435

HAVE ANY UPDATES FOR US?

Please be sure to keep us up-to-date on new addresses, emails, employment, etc.
Send updates to ncolvin@unc.edu. We always love to hear from you!

We welcome your comments and suggestions.
Please direct them to:

Chandra Caldwell
Department of Epidemiology
Gillings School of Global Public Health
2101 McGavran-Greenberg Hall
CB# 7435
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7435
ccaldwel@email.unc.edu

Editorial contributions by:

Lorraine Alexander
Chandra Caldwell
Nancy Colvin
Spencer Gee
Linda Kastleman
Sumitra Shantakumar
Vani Vannappagari

For additional information:

Please visit our website at www.sph.unc.edu/epid.

You also may contact:

Nancy Colvin
Assistant to the chair for graduate studies
Email: ncolvin@unc.edu
Phone: (919) 966-7459

Carmen Woody
Student services manager
Email: carmen_woody@unc.edu
Phone: (919) 966-7458
Fax: (919) 966-4914

If you need to update your information, please do so at:
<http://alumni.unc.edu>, or contact Nancy Colvin (see above).