

GPPH Rounds

Graduate Programs in Public Health - Tufts University School of Medicine

Spring 2002

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John Metcalf, MD/MPH'03, (r) talking with Goman refugees in Gisenyi, Rwanda.

GPPH Rounds

The Graduate Programs in Public Health of Tufts University School of Medicine publishes the GPPH Rounds semiannually. It reports on the activities of the programs, students, faculty, and alumni. We welcome your suggestions, photographs and news items.

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John Metcalf, MD/MPH'03

Since October, I have been working for the International Rescue Committee (IRC), an American based international aid organization that provides humanitarian assistance to civilians on all sides of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) conflict. I have largely acted in epidemiological support of the IRC Bukavu Health Program, undertaking treatment seeking, World Health Organization-sponsored anti-malarial efficacy, and mortality studies in the region. I also had the honor of independently conducting mass screening/treatment for orphans of war in Bukavu. When the volcano Vulcan Nyiragongo re-awoke in the north, splitting the town of Goma in two and sending 350,000 refugees into Rwanda and outlying areas, I was sent to conduct initial health assessments and water surveillance studies in collaboration with our New York-based consultant epidemiologist. During the first days, the lava melted the shoes of those not traversing it fast enough, and the earthquakes at night were harrowing.

South Kivu is the eastern most extreme province of former Zaire. It is a highland area whose beauty is outlined in green (though badly deforested) rift valley hills reaching down into the mirror-blue, volcanic waters of Lake Kivu. The climate stays cool year round due to the elevation, with afternoon storms rolling west from Rwanda across the Great Lakes. It is a Francophone nation, where people conduct daily affairs in Kiswahili.

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*Jeffrey K. Griffiths, M.D., M.P.H.&T.M.
Director, Graduate Programs in Public Health*

Director's Message

Jeffrey K. Griffiths, M.D., M.P.H.&T.M.

This edition of the GPPH Rounds is written after several important events. Several weeks ago we had a site visit by an accreditation team from the Council for Education in Public Health, and just this morning Lawrence Bacow was invested as the new President of Tufts University. Each has their own meaning and importance to those of us interested in public health.

The re-accreditation process is at its heart a self-study: a look at ourselves. While the CEPH has a list of 10 major criteria (including subcriteria, there are actually 23) by which they judge educational programs, we of course have other measures, and at times perhaps higher and different standards than simply meeting accreditation requirements in mind. For many of us the self-study process has been both a tremendous amount of work, and also an opportunity to have a clear vision of how everything fits together. We should receive some written comments back from CEPH some time in June, and we will update you as to their content. Happily, we were told, orally, at the end of the site visit, that we had met or substantially met almost all of the criteria, and had 'partially' met 4 of

23 subcriteria or criteria. No criteria were not met. This evaluation was better than the one we received at our last accreditation five years ago, and everyone who involved themselves in the process should take great pride in this performance. I would particularly like to thank the many students, alumni, faculty, administrators, community partners, and employers who took the time to meet with the site visit team.

As Director of the GPPH, I would like to single out Anthony Schlaff, Paula Minihan, and Robin Glover for their hard work and dedication. Sharon Sager, Anthony Robbins, Brendan O'Connor, Wendy Lee, Jim Glover, and the other members of the Office of Graduate Degree Programs also played important roles and devoted much time and energy. Our Dean, John Harrington, and the other members of the Dean's office were involved. Provost Sol Gittleman, and Larry Bacow, our new President, also took the time to meet with the site visitation team.

This brings me to the subject of our new President's inauguration. The ceremonial speeches were warm, touching, laudatory, and also funny and light-hearted. Amongst the other things that were said, the President said he had four major priorities. I repeat these here because these priorities are ones that we share, and because in fulfilling them, the GPPH has a tremendous opportunity for improvement, excellence, and maturation.

First, Tufts must raise its endowment so that worthy students can attend Tufts regardless of their family's wealth. The GPPH could not agree more, and while we have made major strides in finding scholarship funds, we must do more. We cannot have a student body that represents our society as an whole without more scholarship funds.

Second, Tufts will improve undergraduate education. We believe we can contribute to this process in multiple ways, although our focus is obviously on graduate school level education. One way that we currently do this is by participating in the combined BA/MPH degree program, in which outstanding undergraduates are also able to obtain an MPH degree.

Third, the University will improve graduate education. The GPPH is actively engaged in improvement - what else is accreditation about if not improvement? - and is committed to becoming the best of the bunch. This subject is a large one, but suffice it to say that the GPPH sees many major benefits for its students, its faculty, and its community partners with this as an University objective.

Fourth, the University will push more interdisciplinary education. This is music to our ears, since public health is by its very nature an interdisciplinary avocation and field of endeavor. Tufts is nearly unique in its interdisciplinary focus, and the GPPH has already established itself as a leader in drawing together diverse disciplines in the service of public health goals.

Let me close this short note by wishing all of our graduates the best of luck and congratulating them on their fine and hard work. You are reason we are here, and we take tremendous pride in your current and future achievements. Stay in touch!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

ABC News Medical Unit: Learning to Expect the Unexpected

Roz Puleo, MS-Health
Communication '02

Whenever anybody starts a new job, fear is a common emotion to feel. It may be for petty reasons like fear of not dressing appropriately or for larger reasons like fear of misunderstanding office policies on your first day. For me, the last thing on my mind was office policies. I began my internship at the ABC News Medical Unit on September 12, 2001, the day after thousands of lives were lost and Ground Zero became an infamous landmark. My mind was filled with so much anger and sadness that I was lucky that I even remembered to get dressed that day. Like any first day, in any new experience, I did not know what to expect. I did know, however, that my internship would be unlike any that had gone before me.

One of the cameramen once told me that news is like firefighting: when there's nothing to do, there's nothing to do.

There's no busy work to keep us occupied. In the first few weeks after September 11th, this was particularly true. The Medical Unit is the central location for medical news in the ABC network. During this time, medical news was not of interest to anyone. Not only was coverage limited to issues related to the terrorist attack, but most medical conferences that we normally would have covered were cancelled. My supervisor, Amy Malick, PhD, ABC News Medical Editor and Producer, told me that things would inevitably be slow as a result of the attacks, so I and the other intern spent much of the time watching the coverage on television.

No sooner did we begin to settle into this slow pace, Anthrax was discovered in Florida. Suddenly, our pace accelerated to lightning speed. One thing I was told during my interview was that "breaking" medical news is rare. Here was my chance to see the "rare" side of medical news. From the

moment the news broke until the time it began to settle, we researched anthrax down to its molecular structure. We were well versed in its epidemiology, its pathology, its treatments, and were on a first name basis with its various experts. We conducted a nationwide investigation into each major city's preparedness for bioterrorism. Peter Jennings interviewed Dr. Timothy Johnson, the Unit's resident medical correspondent, live during breaking news segments from our studio. Some days were crazy, others were pure mayhem.

When Tom Brokaw received an anthrax-laced letter, all media outlets braced for the worst. Were we the next target of terrorism? We received countless numbers of emails from David Weston, head of ABC, with updates about the anthrax scare and its possible contamination of the mail. All

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Cancer Screening in the Older Population



Cheryl Hajduk, MPH'02

With demographics changing, it is worrisome that more than half of all new cancers in the United States occur in people aged 65 years and

older. Primary prevention for most cancers remains unknown and so the use of secondary prevention continues to be utilized to detect cancer and improve survival rates. Older patients often receive less aggressive recommendations and treatment. The lack of scientific data is at the root of continued controversies and inconsistencies regarding current screening recommendations for the older population.

Under the guidance of Ruth Palombo, MS, RD, Director of the Office of Elder Health at the Department of Public Health (DPH), I investigated screening rates in Massachusetts' older population. Five years of Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data (1996-2000) was used in my Applied Learning Experience to explore the following: trends of cancer screening in

the older population in Massachusetts, how screening rates in Massachusetts compare to Healthy People 2010 goals, and lifestyle factors that may affect screening rates in the older population.

Consistent results showed that screening goes down with age for all cancer screening tests. Rates differed for type of cancer and screen. Among women aged 65-74 years, 85.1% have had a mammogram over the past 2 years whereas only 25.9% of men and women of the same age range had a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy over the past 5 years. When looking at screening rate trends over 5 years for different age groups, increases in screening rates were seen in both 65-74 year olds and 75-84 year olds for all screening tests. The inclusion of coverage for screening by Medicare Part B in 1998 combined with efforts

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Community Health Workers' Nutrition Training Program



Malia Wagner, MS/MPH '02

Just a few blocks from TUSM, the Latin American Health Institute (LHI) serves New England's communities and organizations through health education, advocacy, and research efforts. Currently LHI is developing a certification program for community health workers (CHWs), which will include nutrition, physical activity, stress reduction, maternal & child health, and STD/HIV prevention components. I was asked last spring to develop the first module in the certification program, nutrition education.

As Dr. Nicolas Carballiera, Director of Policy and Planning at the LHI, explained, the certification program will improve CHW service through consistent and comprehensive training, and lend credibility to outreach work. Ultimately, the program can be adopted by other community service

organizations, adapted for various populations.

The health status of Latin Americans living in the United States, along with a lack of culturally appropriate nutrition materials, supported the need for nutrition education. The prevalence of diet and lifestyle-related conditions including obesity, heart disease, Type II diabetes, stroke, AIDS/HIV, hypertension, and some cancers is higher than the national average in US Latin American populations. Furthermore, general nutrition recommendations do not address specific concerns in Latin American dietary habits. As acculturation has been associated with poorer nutrition status, a demand exists for targeted information and practical skills.

The initial stages of program development involved a nationwide search for existing CHW certification programs. Literature reviews and phone interviews yielded disappointing results, although I did find guidance in a Prenatal CHW program proposal in New Mexico. In need of effective models, I relied on the Massachusetts WIC (Women, Infants, & Children) nutrition training approach for format and evaluation.

Locating appropriate Latin American nutrition materials for the Boston area presented yet another challenge. While many of the nation's "Latin American" materials represent *Mexican* traditions,

the demographics in this area are predominantly Puerto Rican and Dominican, followed by other Caribbean, Central, and South Americans. At first the Latin American and Puerto Rican nutrition materials published by various organizations seemed golden in my hands, yet lost their luster under the scrutiny of focus group participants. The food pyramids were too complex for use in the field, and the food choices and names failed to represent these cultures. For example, the pyramid highlighted yogurt and salmon, foods rarely consumed by Puerto Ricans. As my pride in finding "perfect" models faded, the lesson spoke loudly: Reconfirm sources! (i.e. Make sure other researchers have done their homework!)

The pilot presentation included two sections: general nutrition information (creating health, diet/health connections, recommendations) and practical tips (shopping tips, food labels & safety, snacks & meal planning). Bilingual slides and handouts were provided. Slides can be used in the field on spiral flipcharts, while handouts are designed for community distribution. In appreciation for the human attention span, the seminar did not exceed 2 hours.

The nutrition module is currently being used as a model for other certification program components. I am a more competent, confident health researcher and educator following this experience, and I encourage the Tufts community to collaborate with LHI in future efforts.

Democratic Republic of Congo

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Despite its beauty, there are few places as deeply and irrevocably troubled as the eastern DRC. The region experienced extreme political and economic disruption following: The 1994 Rwandan civil war/genocide, in which 300,000 Rwandan refugees fled to the northern half of South Kivu Province; the civil war in 1996 which overthrew

the government of Zaire; and the August 1998, war in which Rwanda-supported rebels wrested control of the eastern provinces from the Kinshasa based government. Since this time, an estimated 2.5 - 3 million people have died as war continues to rage across much of the eastern half of the DRC. At least seven foreign powers and numerous insurgency and counter-insurgency groups have fought on Congo's soil, largely for the right to exploit Congo's rich mineral reserves.

The landscape of extortion has persisted so long in the Congo that people no longer know their true origins. Children are not only being brought up in the midst of the double curse of war and poverty, but also in a land where few wild things remain, where alien religions have come to be considered their own, and where there is a dearth of worthy goals. In spite of having documented a significant decrease in mortality since IRC began operations in S. Kivu, it is difficult to imagine a sustainable, long-term improvement in the absence of peace in the region.

Education Leadership Summit



Photo courtesy of The News & Observer

Lauro F. Cavazos, PhD, talking to students at Watts Elementary School, Durham, N.C.

Robin Glover

Four former United States Secretaries of Education along with the current Secretary of Education, Rod Paige, came together for a forum on current education issues in front of an audience of 500, that included teachers, students, parents, and policymakers. Lauro F. Cavazos, Ph.D., Professor of Family Medicine & Community Health and U.S. Secretary of Education from 1988 - 1990, was a participant at the Education Leadership Summit held at Duke University in North Carolina in February 2002. Dr. Cavazos was appointed Secretary of Education toward the end of President Reagan's second term and continued for two years under President Bush. The other participants included, William Bennett, who served under President Reagan;

Lamar Alexander, who served under President Bush, and Richard Riley who served under President Clinton. The Education Leadership Summit was sponsored by Duke as part of a salute to 150 years of teacher preparation. It was moderated by James B. Hunt, the former Governor of North Carolina.

Some of the issues that were raised and debated at the Summit included the teacher shortage, more federal funds for schools, the high number of students not reading at grade level, and the need to widen the scope of what is taught in schools to include ethics, comparative religion, and world geography. The Secretaries debated ways to improve schools and the lack of math and science teachers, noting that they are being lured away by the corporate world with the promises of large salaries. Dr. Cavazos, the first Hispanic appointed to the Cabinet in the history of

the United States, said that the nation needs more minority teachers to reach an increasingly diverse student population. "Many, many children will never be taught by a role model of their own race," he said.

Annual standardized testing was supported by most of the Secretaries as a way to ensure that students are meeting the math and reading requirements. Dr. Cavazos, however, noted that too much emphasis is put on testing. He went on to say that "we don't want testing as a single measure of education", noting that graduation rates, college attendance and other measures must be taken into account.

Part of the debate at the summit included the role of religion in public schools.

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MD/MPH 2002 Residencies

Arshiya Baig, Internal Medicine, University of Michigan

Jennifer Chen, Medicine/Emergency Medicine, University of California - Los Angeles Medical center

Thomas Faber, Medicine/Pediatrics, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Combined Program

Tafadzwa Kasambira, Pediatrics/Primary Care, Boston Combined Pediatrics/Children's Hospital

Quang Le, Surgery, Lahey Clinic

Ted Lee, Family Practice, West Suburban Hospital Medical Center

Jennifer Quinn, Internal Medicine, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

Atena Rosak, Surgery, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

Nicole Smith, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Yale - New Haven Medical Center

Jessica Stevens, Pediatrics Massachusetts General Hospital

Sara Stulac, Pediatrics, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

Nihil Theodore, Somerset Medical Center, Family Practice

Victor Wang, Internal Medicine, VA Geater Los Angeles

Arthur Wendel, Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals

David Wolfe, Psychiatry, Harvard Longwood Program

Award Winning Medical Reporting



Photo courtesy of Palfreman Film Group

Jonathan Palfreman, M.Sc.

Monica Kung, MS-Health
Communication'02

Jonathan Palfreman, MSc, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Family Medicine & Community Health, was the recipient of two distinguished awards: The Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award and the Victor Cohn Prize.

The Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award was established in 1942 and honors overall excellence in broadcast journalism. On January 16, 2001, Tom Brokaw, of NBC Nightly News, hosted the nationally televised awards ceremony at Columbia University where thirteen Silver Batons were awarded. The Palfreman Film Group, Frontline/Nova and WGBH-TV, received a Silver Baton for Outstanding Television News for the documentary *Harvest of Fear* on PBS. *Harvest of Fear* delves into depths of genetically modified foods and its global impacts. It reaches beyond the scope of pure science explanation and proceeds to examine the potential for ecological devastation. This investigative reporting was conducted with a stellar impartial delivery of information. Professor Palfreman served as producer of this two-hour special.

The 2001 Victor Cohn Prize for Excellence in Medical Science Reporting was presented to Professor Palfreman on November 5, 2001, at Arizona State University in Tempe. The

Prize was given for a series of published or broadcast work over a period of five years. Professor Palfreman's vast collection of work includes controversial topics such as the Gulf War syndrome, breast implants, electromagnetic fields, and facilitated communication, among others.

More recently, the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis (SABA) selected Professor Palfreman for the 2002 Award for Effective Presentation of Behavior Analysis in the Mass Media. This award is given to an individual who produces information that disseminates the science of behavior analysis to a broad audience, presenting an accurate analysis of the principles involved and the effects achieved. This award will be presented to Professor Palfreman on May 25, 2002 in Toronto at the SABA's annual conference of the Association of Behavior Analysis.

Professor Palfreman has been producing top-quality medical investigative pieces

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ABC News Medical Unit

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interoffice mail stopped for a few days and our office manager started wearing gloves when opening the mail. The fear became real when an ABC employee's child tested positive for Anthrax. We now knew that our network was not immune. Although we were removed from the scene in New York, we were kept abreast of all developments through email. And naturally, we kept the topic of anthrax paramount to any other medical news.

That was only September.....

As the public began healing from the effects of September 11th, our duties started drifting back to normalcy. Actually, I did not know what normal was, but that is what they told me. Conferences began rescheduling their

events, medical topics that had been forgotten began to resurface, and our coverage went back to being more diversified. My responsibilities started to become more of what I had expected when I first applied: researching topics and writing news briefs to preview the next week's medical news for producers throughout ABC. I wrote a feature story for ABCNews.com on fingernails and bacteria. I attended the daily editorial meetings and often voiced my opinion on what topics I thought would be "newsworthy". Sometimes, they even listened!

As my three-month internship period was coming to an end, Amy asked me if I would be interested in staying on board and taking on a special project. After having a unique and positive experience, I thought it would be a good opportunity to continue my learning

with a well-respected team of journalists. I am now co-producing an online women's health series called Healthy Woman, in which I write a monthly newsletter on a women's health topic for email subscribers and produce weekly health quizzes that appear on ABCNews.com. It has been a wonderful experience so far, as I have written about topics ranging from herpes to fibromyalgia. I get to interview doctors and researchers who are tops in their field which not only gives me great information for each newsletter, but I also learn so much from all of them.

ABC News has been a wonderful place to do an internship. I don't know how different it would have been if I had done it at another time in history, but I would not exchange the

Public Health Advocacy Institute

“Our population’s health is a national asset. It deserves the highest level of protection.” That is the focus of the new Public Health Advocacy Institute (PHAI), which is dedicated to protecting the health of the public. The goal of PHAI is to support and enhance public health understanding and commitment among law teachers and students, legislators and regulators, the courts, and others who shape public policy through the law. To help achieve this the PHAI has built a strategic alliance of lawyers and public health professionals.

In 2000, Tufts University School of Medicine’s Graduate Programs in Public Health and Northeastern University School of Law developed a dual degree program to offer Northeastern Law students a public health degree while in law school. Furthering cementing the relationships, leaders of the Tufts’ public health Northeastern Law faculty have joined forces for advocacy by establishing with a core grant from the Bauman Foundation the independent not-for-profit PHAI.

The PHAI’s principals are Anthony Robbins, MD, MPA, Chair, Department of Family Medicine & Community Health at Tufts University School of Medicine (TUSM); James Hyde, MA, SM, TUSM Associate Professor of Family Medicine & Community Health; Wendy Parmet, Professor of Law at Northeastern University School of Law and Director of Northeastern University

School of Law’s JD/MPH Program; Richard Daynard, JD, PhD, Professor of Law at Northeastern University School of Law, Chairman, Tobacco Products Liability Project, and President of Tobacco Control Resource Center; and Daniel Givelber, JD, former Dean, Northeastern University School of Law. 1984-1993 and Interim Dean from 1998 - 1999. The Acting Executive Director of PHAI is Ben Kelley, former president of the Institute for Injury Reduction.

The mission of the PHAI is to engage in research, policy analysis and communications to support and advance effective advocacy. They work to enhance public health and protect the public:

In the law, by making public health considerations and analytic methods an integral part of legal discussions and deliberations.

In law schools, by establishing public health disciplines and analysis as accepted curriculum ingredients.

In the courts, by offering their support for actions to protect the health of the public.

In public policy, by advocating sound public health analysis and practices.

In society at large, by enhancing general recognition of public health goals.

PHAI’s initial projects include:

Public Health Literacy: This project will develop and test teaching materials that introduce the disciplines of public health in the required courses of law school curriculum. PHAI proposes to incorporate an understanding of health and populations.

Secrecy Countermeasures: In effort to use public health threats uncovered in legal proceedings, this project will analyze the consequences of protective orders and other obstacles to disclosure and will develop strategies for opposing them. PHAI will intervene in court, propose model state legislation, and suggest changes to Federal regulatory statutes.

Public Health Archives in the Law: To make information systematically available to lawyers, legislators, policymakers, and the public, this project will develop methods to create useful and widely accessible archives on hazards.

Intervention for Public Health: Identifying and intervening in crucial court cases, legislative deliberations, and regulatory proceedings on behalf of public health needs is the work of this project.

If you are interested in supporting PHAI’s work or like more information, visit their website, PHAIonline.org or contact them at director@PHIonline.org or (617) 373-5214.

A.R.

Education Summit

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Secretary Alexander said that he supported teaching religion in the schools, but Dr. Cavazos said that the same outcome could be accomplished by teaching the three components of virtue: temperance, courage and justice. “I’m not teaching religion, I’m teaching philosophy,” he said. “These things have been written down for thousands of years.” Instead of posting the Ten

Commandments, Dr. Cavazos said teachers could simply post a sign that says “virtue.”

Dr. Cavazos implored the Forum participants and the nation to recognize the increasing diversity of students in the public schools, and to focus on their educational needs. “We must find ways,” he said, “of improving public elementary and secondary schools.” Dr. Cavazos warned against “creating a new

system of schools” and urged policymakers not to leave schools in the inner cities behind. He said they should be turned into schools of excellence. “Education reform has made progress, but we have a long way to go,” said Dr. Cavazos. “Once this nation had great schools. We can again.”

MPH Fall 2001 Applied Learning Experiences

David Russell, *Induced Xerostomia-Examination of an Oral Health Problem, Analysis of Recent Data, and a Proposed Plan for Federal Legislation*, Preceptor: -Athena Papas, DMD, PhD, Tufts University School of Dental Medicine

Margaret Howard, *Policy Brief on Oral Health*, Preceptor: Nicolas Carballeira, ND, MPH, Latino Health Institute

Tara Mardigan, *Addressing Obesity in the Latin American Population of Massachusetts*, Preceptor: Nicolas Carballeira, ND, MPH, Latino Health Institute

Malia Wagner, *Community Health Workers' Nutrition Training Program*,

Preceptor: Nicolas Carballeira, ND, MPH, Latino Health Institute

Cheryl Hajduk, *Cancer Screening in Elder Adults*, Preceptor: Ruth Palombo, MS, RD, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Valerie Green, *Tufts Nutrition Public Relations Assessment*, Preceptor: Peggy Hayes, BA, Tufts University Health Sciences Public Relations

Kimberly Puhala, *The Intersection of the For-Profit Sector and Public Health: Making Public Health Make Sense to the Business World*, Preceptor: Ken Silverman, PhD, John Hopkins University - Center for Learning and Health

Deepa Bhat, *Documenting HIV/AIDS Training Programs in Five Countries*, Preceptor: Gill Garb, MA, World Edu-

cation

Laoti Russo, *Laborers United for a Healthy Future*, Preceptor: Ann Smith, MHS, Dana Farber Cancer Institute

Raymond Chan, *Depression in Asian Adults with Type I and Type II Diabetes*, Preceptor: Albert Yeung, MD, ScD, South Cove Community Health Center

Maureen Farrell, *STD Division of the MDPH-Provider Education Needs Assessment Survey*, Preceptor: Christine Burke, MSW, MPH, Food and Drug Administration

Anathea Waitekus, *Targeted Volunteer Recruitment*, Preceptor: Sheridan Haines, BA, Samaritans of Boston

Award Winning Medical Reporting

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for decades in the United Kingdom and the United States. He has been associated with British Broadcast Company and has also produced many Frontline, NOVA, and Public Broadcast System specials with WGBH-TV. In 1996, Professor Palfreman founded his own production company, the Palfreman Film Group.

Although Professor Palfreman's main passion lies in television production on controversial policy subjects, he is also the author of two books, a prominent sought-after lecturer, and teaches "Communicating Risk through the Media" for the Tufts' Master of Science in Health Communication Program. He stated "It's been a great pleasure for me to teach the course at Tufts and have the opportunity to meet a lot of bright students and interact with the academic community."

For his next project, Professor Palfreman is working on a series of

programs dealing with controversies over prescription drugs. He plans to segment them into four parts, each one dealing with a different aspect of the issue: pricing, marketing, complementary and alternative medicine, and service and delivery issues in the developing world.

Professor Palfreman believes that in our current society, where new technologies are continually emerging, it is the journalist's role to help shape perspectives and clarify the debates.

Cancer Screening in the Older Population

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put forth by DPH may have influenced some of these trends.

The 2000 BRFSS data were used to compare Massachusetts screening rates against Healthy People 2010 goals. Results showed that 84% of Massachusetts women aged 40 and older were screened with mammograms within the past 2 years exceeding the Healthy People goal by 14%. Rates

for Massachusetts' women who have ever had a Pap test just fell short of the 97% goal while screening for colorectal cancer is behind the 50% goal for people 50 years and older.

Higher rates of screening in managed care programs were seen for all screening procedures except for prostate cancer screening for 1999-2000. Trends were also seen for other lifestyle behaviors. For example, older women who ate 5 or more fruits and vegetables a day or participated in regular physical activity had consistently higher rates of screening for all screening tests. Data were limited on insurance and lifestyle variables preventing complete analyses. The DPH is going to use the information from the project to publish a newsletter that will be distributed to health professionals.

Recent disagreement surrounding mammography shows that much remains unsettled. This ALE project opened my eyes to the controversies and unanswered questions surrounding screening in the older population.

Alumni Notes

MPH:

Eric Engels, MD, MPH '98, of McLean, VA, is an Investigator/Research Epidemiologist at the National Cancer Institute doing research on viruses and cancer.

Christine Doe, MPH '99, of Norwood, MA, is preparing for a Summer 2002 Associate position in patent law at the firm of Hamilton, Brook, Smith, and Reynolds, P.C. while continuing her legal education at the New England School of Law.

Kristen (Lacijan) Becker, MS/MPH '00, of Eugene, OR, is a Project Coordinator for the Oregon Center for Applied Science, Inc.

Michael A. DeAngelis, MS/MPH '00, of Peabody, MA, just began a new position as the Director of the Massachusetts Diabetes Control Program at the Mass. Department of Public Health after spending 2 years with Porter Novelli Public Relations as the Nutrition Ad. Health Communications Expert. He and his wife, Susan, recently moved to their new home in Peabody.

Aimee J. Glidden, MPH '00, of Old Town, ME, is a 2nd-Year Medical Student at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Lauren Khalil Alongi, MPH '00, of Boston, MA, is a Health Care Analyst with the Tufts Health Plan.

Cecilia Kremer, MS/MPH '00, of Newton, MA, is an Epidemiologist with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Division of Tuberculosis Prevention and Control.

Deanna M. (Greene) Neff, MPH '00, of Stow, MA, is a full-time mother of her 2-year-old daughter, and is also

expecting a baby boy in May. Deanna is volunteering for the Stow Board of Health and facilitating an RFP process for a community fund for children aged birth-12.

Laura Valeri, MPH '00, of Leominster, MA, is the Senior Quality Assurance Project Coordinator with the Biopure Corporation.

Congratulations to **Rick Falzone, MPH '01**, of Somerville, MA, on his marriage to Holly on August 4, 2001, and their subsequent honeymoon in Bali, Indonesia. Rick is currently a Clinical Research Associate at the New England Research Institute.

Polyxane Mertzanis, MPH '01, of Ashland, MA, is the Project Manager for Mapi Values.

Amy Nakamaru, MS/MPH '01, San Francisco, CA, is an Account Coordinator with Gauger & Santy, a marketing communications agency and one of their specialties is in the natural food industry.

MD/MPH and DVM/MPH:

Jill Shannahan, MD/MPH '90, of Aptos, CA, is a Psychiatrist at Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz, CA.

Lee Wrubel, MD/MPH '90, of Westport, CT, is the Managing General Partner at Foundation Medical Partners, and is currently managing a biotech and medical devices venture capital fund.

Gilbert Acosta, MD/MPH '91, of Cape Coral, FL, is an Anesthesiologist and Pain Management Specialist in the Department of Anesthesiology at MAPMC/Lee Memorial Health Systems.

Christian Hill, MD/MPH '91, of Tubu City, AZ, will be leaving his current job in July to return to Portland, OR, where

he will be taking a Family Medicine position with Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Clinic serving primarily a Hispanic/migrant population.

Congratulations to **Joel Ackelsberg, MD/MPH '93**, of Montclair, NJ, and his wife, Betsy, on the birth of their twins – son, Matan and daughter, Hana – born on October 4, 2001. Joel is the Medical Director in the Emergency Readiness and Response Unit of the New York City Department of Health Communicable Disease Program, and as the Bioterrorism Preparedness Coordinator for the NYC Department of Health, he has been busy since September 11th.

John Fitzgerald, MD/MPH '93, of Los Angeles, CA, is a Clinical Instructor with the Department of Rheumatology at the University of California-Los Angeles School of Medicine.

Congratulations to **Richard Klein, MD/MPH '93**, of Whitmore Lake, MI, on his engagement to Hana Aschermannova. They plan on getting married this coming September in Prague, Czech Republic. Richard is the Chief Resident in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, and is planning a Fellowship in Maxillofacial/Craniofacial and Facial Plastic Surgery in July, 2003.

Elton Lee, MD/MPH '93, of Mercer Island, WA, is currently working at PACMED in a mixture of clinical, administrative, and teaching capacities. Elton and his wife, Doris, have two sons – Ethan (2) and Elliot (8 mos.).

Amy Lu, MD/MPH '93, of Washington, D.C., is the Director of the Pediatric Transplant Program in the Department of Surgery at the Georgetown University Transplant Institute.

Alumni Notes

Michael Bruce, MD/MPH '94, of Anchorage, AK, is an Infectious Disease Epidemiologist for the Arctic Investigation Program with the CDC. Michael, his wife, Keri, and their children, Fiona (5) and Dylan (3), are loving Alaska.

Cheryl Jacobs, MD/MPH '94, of Seattle, WA, is enjoying being a Freelancing MD in multiple clinics, traveling, and figuring out how to effectively bring about a new model of patient care called "group visits."

Randal Christensen, MD/MPH '95, of Phoenix, AZ, is a Faculty Physician in General Pediatrics/General Medicine at the Good Samaritan/Phoenix Children's Hospital. Randal is also the Medical Director of the Crewsn Healthmobile, which provides healthcare to homeless adolescents and children. We would like to congratulate Randal on the birth of his twins in September.

Tushan Desai, MD/MPH '95, of Boston, MA, is a Fellow in Pulmonary and Critical Care with the Department of Internal Medicine at Boston University.

Christine (Pfaelzer) MacMillan, MD/MPH '95, of New York, NY, is an Attending Psychiatrist in the Department of Psychology at New York Presbyterian Hospital, and also engaging in private practice.

Congratulations to **David Melnick, MD/MPH '96**, and **Mollie Kane, MD/MPH '96**, of Ann Arbor, MI, on the birth of their daughter, Chelsea, in December, who was welcomed home by her big brother, Noah. David is currently a Surgery Resident at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

Erica Pan, MD/MPH '96, of San Francisco, CA, is a Pediatric ID Fellow at the University of California-San Francisco.

Jonathan Fisher, MD/MPH '97, of Philadelphia, PA, is an Attending Physician in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Albert Einstein Medical Center.

Maitreyi Mazumdar, MD/MPH '97, of Cambridge, MA, is a Fellow in the Department of Pediatric Neurology at the Children's Hospital of Boston

Congratulations to **Abigail Zavod, MD/MPH '97**, of Plainsboro, NJ, on the birth of her third son, Caleb. Abigail graduated from the Primary Care Internal Medicine Residency Program at Dartmouth, and is currently a Physician in the Department of Employee Health at Princeton University.

John Espinola, MD/MPH '98, of Seattle, WA, is a Clinical Fellow in Geriatrics at the University of Washington-Harborview Medical Center.

Congratulations to **Donald Keamy, MD/MPH '98**, of Pittsburgh, PA, on his marriage to Deb Eneyess (Tufts-MD '98). Donald is a resident in Otolaryngology at the University of Pittsburgh who is currently pursuing a Fellowship in Pediatric Otolaryngology.

Jennifer Nelson, MD/MPH '98, of Emeryville, CA, is an Academic Professor of Internal Medicine with the Department of Internal Medicine at Highland General Hospital in Oakland, CA.

Elizabeth Wilson, MD/MPH '98, of San Francisco, CA, will begin a Family Practice Research Fellowship in the Department of Family Practice at the University of California-San Francisco in July.

Congratulations to **Julie Bauman, MD/MPH '99**, of Salt Lake City, UT,

on the birth of her second child, daughter Karina Lin Schmit, born on February 2, 2002. Julie is a 2nd-Year Resident in Internal Medicine at the University of Utah, and has recently accepted a Fellowship in Hematology/Oncology to begin in June, 2003, also at the University of Utah.

Ken Domuczicz, MD/MPH '99, of Cincinnati, OH, is a 3rd-Year Emergency Resident at the University of Cincinnati-University Hospital.

Congratulations to **Lisa Feinstein, DVM/MPH '99**, of Hollywood, FL, on her marriage to Attorney Russell Kaplan. Lisa is a Small Animal Practitioner at the Stetzer Animal Clinic, and in her free time is enjoying entertaining and traveling with her new husband.

Congratulations to **Kimberley Carlson, MD/MPH '00**, of Palo Alto, CA, who married Robert Lobato in April, 2001. Kimberley is a 2nd-Year Resident in the Department of Internal Medicine at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center.

Jonathan Hertz, MD/MPH '00, of Somerville, MA, is a 2nd-Year Psychiatry Resident at Cambridge Hospital, and hopes to embark on community mental health research.

Shannon McDonnell, MD/MPH '00, of Virginia Beach, VA, is a General Medical Officer for the Regional Support Group of the United States Navy Medical Corps in Norfolk, VA. She completed an Internal Medicine internship at Portsmouth Naval Hospital in June, 2001, and from there went directly to sea with the Enterprise Battle Group as the Destroyer Squadron Staff Doctor aboard the USS Thorn., during Operation Enduring Freedom. Shannon expects another deployment with George Washington Battle Group soon, and hopes to complete a residency in Emergency Medicine by June, 2004.

Alexandre Nader, MD/MPH '00, of Sandwich, MA, is a Physician in the Department of Internal Medicine at Cape Cod Hospital.

Elizabeth Price, MD/MPH '00, of Somerville, MA, is a 2nd-Year Internal Medicine Resident with Massachusetts General Hospital. We wish her the best of luck as she leaves for Stanford University in July of 2003 to begin a Hematology/Oncology Fellowship.

Edward Lee, MD/MPH '01, of Sacramento, CA, is a Resident Physician in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of California-Davis.

John Schneider, MD/MPH '01, of Western Springs, IL, is Housestaff for the Department of Medicine at the University of Chicago.

MS – Health Communication

Suzanne (Ovaska) Taylor Boyd, MS'97, of Rowley, MA, is a Senior Library Technician for the Newbury Town Library, and is presently attending Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

Joanne Barker, MS '98, of Somerville, MA, is a Writer/Producer for the Marketing/Multi-media Department of Eclipsys Corporation.

Congratulations to **Lisa Dunderdale, MS '98**, of Southborough, MA, and her husband, Mark, on the arrival of their new twins, Laura and Matthew, on June 22, 2001. The twins were welcomed home by their big brother, Timothy (2), who is doing a great job.

Courtney Paskell, MS '98, of York, PA, is a Physician Liaison/Stroke

Program Champion in the Marketing Department of the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of York.

Lynn Weissman, MS '98, of Belmont, MA, is self-employed in Freelance Writing and Production.

Sibylle (Kraus) Kim, MS '99, of Cambridge, MA, is a Clinical Research Specialist in Business Development with BBK Healthcare, Inc. Sibylle is currently responsible for establishing strategic partnerships with European and Latin American organizations in order to provide global patient recruitment services.

Julie Tu, MS '01, of Germantown, MD, is the Advocacy Program Coordinator with the Office of Communications, Liaison Activities Branch of the National Cancer Institute.

Faculty Notes

Sheldon Krimsky, PhD, MA, MS, Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy, led an interactive workshop for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-sponsored Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rotenticide Act Inspector Training Seminar on Risk Communication for pesticide inspectors in New England. Dr. Krimsky also published an article called "An Epistemological Inquiry into the Endocrine Disruptor Hypothesis".

Carole Palmer, EdD, MEd, RD, Professor of Dental Medicine, has been working on a project called Soundbites, an integrated training program on nutrition and oral health from pregnancy to age 3 that is in its 3rd year of funding from the Peabody Foundation. Soundbites was developed from work on the National Headstart Conference "The Face of a Child" and the Surgeon General's Conference on Oral Health.

Congratulations to **Beth Rosenberg, ScD, MPH**, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health and Jessica Champness of the Environmental League of Massachusetts on their partial victory to get silica regulated under the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Act.

The regulation will only apply to abrasive blasting operations and foundries and not all uses of silica, but at least some workers in the state will breathe easier because of their efforts.

Aviva Must, PhD, Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health, received funding from the Centers for Disease Control to conduct an enumeration and evaluation of surveillance and survey activities for school aged children being conducted across the US. The project has been named Enumeration of Child State-level Physical Activity & Nutrition Surveillance Efforts.

Bart Laws, PhD, MA, Assistant Clinical Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health, published an article, in Public Health Reports called "Racial and Ethnic Identification Practices in Public Health Data Systems in New England." He also has a research article, "Tobacco availability and marketing in demographically contrasting districts of Massachusetts", in press in the Tobacco Control Journal.

Barry Levy, MD, MPH, Adjunct Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health, received the American College of Preventive Medicine Special Recognition Award at the annual meeting, February 2002 in San Anto-

nio. Professor Levy is currently co-editing two books: Terrorism and Public Health, and the second edition of Preventing Occupational Disease and Injury.

Doug Brugge, PhD, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health, published an article entitled "The Effect of Traffic on Injuries in Boston Chinatown: Lessons from Three Years of Data" in the Journal of Urban Health 2002. Dr. Brugge helped develop bilingual, adult basic literacy environmental education materials for recent Chinese immigrants. He was also appointed to the Committee for Boston Public Housing's Board of Directors.

Congratulations to **Alice Lichtenstein, DSc**, on being named the Stanley N. Gershoff Professor at Tufts University.

David Gute, MPH, PhD, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, reported at the National Hazardous Substance Research Centers held in Portland, Oregon in January 2002, on the lessons learned from Tufts' participation in providing support to community groups throughout New England. This work is a result of two EPA funded activities, Technical Outreach Services to Communities and Technical Assistance on Brownfields (TAB).

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