

## Ten Years for the MS-Health Communication Program

*Emily Case, MS-Health Communication Candidate*

The ten-year anniversary of the MS-Health Communication (HCOM) program is just around the corner. To mark this occasion, Timothy Edgar, PhD, Emerson HCOM Program Director, and James Hyde, MA, SM, Tufts HCOM Program Director, conducted a survey of all 130 graduates of the Tufts/Emerson Program. Just over 90% (N=106) of those for whom there were viable e-mail addresses responded. A couple of weeks ago, J. Hyde and I sat down to talk about the program – its past, present, and future.

In 1994, Dr. Scott Ratzan of Emerson College and Dr. Norman Stearns of Tufts University School of Medicine published a paper in the *American Behavioral Scientist* outlining the purpose, scope, and curriculum of the Tufts-Emerson HCOM program. Through word of mouth, and more recently, Internet exposure, over 130 students have been attracted to and graduated from the programs at the two institutions.

The survey showed that health communication graduates are everywhere, both geographically and professionally. Alumni are concentrated on both coasts, with the majority residing in the New England area. Graduates are employed in the public, private and voluntary sectors, although the majority are in the public sector.

Eighty-seven percent (87%) of those surveyed rated the program 5 or higher on a 7-point satisfaction scale. Respondents cited one-on-one faculty contact, small class size, term projects, and the opportunity to take classes at both Tufts and Emerson as aspects of the program that contributed most positively to their educational experiences. In an open-ended question, a number of alumni noted that the public speaking skills they practiced during their HCOM studies

have been invaluable in their professional lives.

Respondents did have suggestions for improvements. For example, they asked for more career counseling to help transition graduate candidates from the program to the work force. They also

requested more emphasis on the financial and administrative aspects of program planning, execution, and evaluation. Others commented that there is not enough focus on the private sector or interpersonal communication. In

response, J. Hyde pointed out that these are areas that both schools have either begun to address or recognize as needing attention.

Many colleges and universities are currently developing their own health communication programs. The experience at Tufts has already served as a template for several of these. As the program moves into its next ten years, it must

*Continued on p. 3*

**Types of organizations in which graduates are employed**

Federal/State/Local Agency	12
Hospital or medical practice	12
Educational institution	10
Advertising, PR or marketing	10
Non-profit advocacy or Voluntary	9
Pharma or Biotech	9
Health Insurance Industry	7
Technology (not BT)	7
Others	24

### In This Issue

*Ten Years for the MS-Health Communication Program*

*Consortium for Conservation Medicine*

*Empowering Patients to Reduce Mental Health Disparities*

*Benefits of a MD/MPH: An Alumnus' Perspective*

*PHSS: Building Community and GPPH Student Leaders*

*Career Services 2003 - 2004 Activities*

## Director's Message

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



Jeffrey K. Griffiths, MD, MPH&TM  
Director, Graduate Programs in  
Public Health

In this edition of GPPH Rounds I'd like to report on two curricular initiatives at Tufts that involve the GPPH. Innovation is a critical element in education, and both of these projects are quite novel. Each has the potential to significantly enhance the education we offer. One initiative focuses on interdisciplinary education, and the other focuses on international perspectives and the use of cutting-edge internet technologies.

This fall the University will matriculate its first students into the "Water: Systems, Science, and Society" (WSSS) interdisciplinary program. When President Bacow came to Tufts, he challenged the University community to develop novel interdisciplinary programs that could become pre-eminent on a national level. This water program was the top-ranked one from over 40 proposals and is a partnership of the Schools of Arts and Science, Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, the

Friedman School of Nutrition, and Fletcher School. Its purpose is to provide the multidisciplinary perspectives and tools to manage water related problems. Many of these problems are public health ones; just think of the historic importance of waterborne diseases, water disinfection, and current concerns about chemical contaminants such as arsenic or other carcinogens. GPPH faculty members have been instrumental members of the WSSS program faculty team. The core research areas include water and public health, and the biological links between water, health, and nutrition. Other core areas include water, climate, and environmental change; watershed restoration and management; water, food and livelihood security, and national and international security. This central role for the GPPH in the WSSS program is further evidence of our integration into the University as a whole. Involved faculty have included Elena Naumova, Andrey Egorov, Beth Rosenberg, and myself. Take a look at the program at <http://www.tufts.edu/water>, it's both innovative and exciting.

In January, thirty-five Kenyan and six current and former Tufts faculty attended a curriculum workshop hosted by the University of Nairobi in Kenya. Its purpose was to promote the development of shared instructional modules and courses between public health faculty in the U.S. and Kenya. The Kenyan faculty and staff came from a dozen institutions of higher education that are linked by the Kenyan Internet backbone (KENET). Faculty and staff at Tufts on the Medford campus have piloted and developed a curricular tool called curriculum co-development, which involves the use of shared curricular content and teaching in multiple sites. In practice this means that faculty at several universities compare their curricula, decide on elements to be shared, and then use Internet technologies to create a virtual forum for discussion of these questions. Imagine taking an introductory epidemiology class where you share insights and questions with your peers in East Africa, where the public health challenges are daunting and different. The workshop was tremendous fun, a lot of work, and successful. Our initial focus has been on epidemiology, ecosystem integrity, health communications, and HIV/AIDS. These initial topic areas play to our strengths here at Tufts, and to the public health needs in Kenya. One day we had current students log onto the mock course sites we had set up, and then had live chats between the Nairobi and Boston sites. This was positively electrifying to the group in Kenya. Our enthusiasm is tempered by the very real problem of connectivity in Africa (slow connections, high cost) but we hope to have pilot shared modules and courses up and going in the near future. Participating faculty included Jim Hyde, Ron Ruffing, Elena Naumova, Will Rand, Steve Cohen (of Academic Technology in Medford), Jim Else (formerly of the Vet School, now at Emory University), and myself.

I hope that in some small way these vignettes will help you to appreciate the really positive environment at Tufts these days. We hope these programs keep our programs fresh. It's an exciting time to be here!

## Faculty Notes

**Harris Berman, MD**, Morton A. Madoff Professor of Community Health and **Marcia Boumil, JD, LL.M.**, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine & Community Health (FM&CH), conducted a FM&CH Department faculty seminar on medical malpractice reform. A similar presentation was made to the American Medical Student Association during fall 2003. Both the student and faculty groups engaged in vigorous debate and demonstrated a wide diversity of interest and opinion.

**Doug Brugge, PhD**, Associate Professor of FM&CH, recently co-authored an article in the *Journal of Public Health Policy*, entitled "Where Does the Damp Come From? Investigations into the indoor environment and respiratory health in Boston Public Housing."

**William DeJong, PhD**, Associate Clinical Professor of FM&CH, recently published a monograph entitled "Safe Lanes on Campus: A Guide for Preventing Impaired Driving and Underage Drinking." Washington, DC, U.S. Department of Education.

**Paul Hattis, MD, JD**, Assistant Professor of FM&CH, co-authored a chapter in the recently published Institute of Medicine Report entitled "The Nation's Compelling Interest: Ensuring Diversity in the Health Care Workforce."

**Benjamin Kelley**, Adjunct Instructor in FM&CH, is undertaking a new Public Health Advocacy Institute project "Motor Vehicle Hazard Archives" under a three-year grant from the Santos Family Foundation.

**Barry Levy, MD, MPH**, Adjunct Professor of FM&CH, continues to perform in *Damaged Care: The Musical Comedy about Health Care in American*, which he co-wrote. The show, which was recently featured on *CNN Headline News*, has now been performed over 50 times in 22 states.

**Paula Minihan, PhD, MPH**, Assistant Professor of FM&CH, gave two presentations at the American Public Health Association's annual meeting entitled "Homework: Human Service Direct Support Staff and Involuntary Smoking" and "Another Tobacco Control Strategy for State Government: Enacting Smoking Policies in State Human Service Agencies."

**Anthony Robbins, MD, MPA**, Professor of FM&CH and Phyllis Freeman, JD, assumed the co-editorship of the *Journal of Public Health Policy*. They are eagerly soliciting submissions. The 25 year old progressive policy quarterly was founded and edited by Milton Terris. For more information on the Journal visit the web site at [www.JournalPublicHealthPolicy.org](http://www.JournalPublicHealthPolicy.org).

---

# Consortium for Conservation Medicine at Wildlife Trust

*Jonathan Epstein DVM/MPH '02*

*Dr. Epstein holds adjunct faculty positions at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Environmental and Population Health and Columbia University's Center for Ecological Research and Conservation. His work on Nipah virus has been featured on 60 Minutes II and he has appeared on BBC radio's "News Hour", National Geographic news online, and the "San Francisco Chronicle." Dr. Epstein is about to begin working towards his PhD, which will focus on the co-evolution of flying foxes and henipaviruses.*

I am currently the Senior Program Officer at the Consortium for Conservation Medicine (CCM) at Wildlife Trust in Palisades, New York. The Consortium is a partnership of five institutions working together to approach health issues from a human, animal, and ecosystem perspective. Members include Tufts University's School of Veterinary Medicine, Harvard University's Center for Global Health and the Environment, U.S. Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Center, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Wildlife Trust, a not-for-profit conservation organization based in New York.

I am using my skills in wildlife epidemiology to manage a four-year project studying the ecology of an emerging zoonotic disease called Nipah virus. The project is funded by the NIH's Fogarty International Center. Nipah virus is a deadly, zoonotic disease that emerged in pigs in Malaysia in 1999. It causes a severe respiratory disease in pigs, and can cause a febrile encephalitis in humans, leading to death in 40% of those infected. The outbreak in Malaysia caused massive economic loss, as it quickly spread from farm to farm due



*Dr. Epstein examining an adult male Pteropus Vampyrus, one of the two reservoir species for Nipah virus*

to the rapid movement of pigs around Peninsular Malaysia, and even into Singapore. Although the outbreak was eventually quelled, and this deadly new pathogen was characterized, the question remained: Where did this disease come from?

I work with a multinational team that includes veterinarians, physicians, ecologists, climatologists, wildlife biologists, and epidemiologists whose primary goal is to understand the ecology of the Nipah virus, so that future outbreaks may be prevented. Anthropogenic changes to the environment are the primary drivers of disease emergence, and the Nipah team is trying to determine whether it was human activity that allowed Nipah to emerge. The devastating forest fires in 1997 created a haze over Malaysia that may have affected fruit production and

altered the normal movement and foraging patterns of the host of Nipah virus: giant fruit bats, or "flying foxes". I am working to test the hypothesis that poor food availability drove flying foxes northward to the area surrounding Ipoh, where the first cases of Nipah in pigs occurred. The index farm had large mango orchards, and some of the trees hung over the pig enclosures, allowing infected bats to drop bits of fruit into the pig pens, where they were eaten by pigs which then became sick.

The study includes disease surveillance in bats (my specialty) as well as ecological study, which includes placing satellite collars on bats to understand their long-range movements. Satellite telemetry has been used on birds before, but I was one of the first to use them on flying foxes. Flying foxes in Malaysia are about 2.5 pounds, with a wingspan of up to 5 feet. These bats fly hundreds of kilometers between roost sites (they roost in trees in numbers of anywhere from 100 to tens of thousands) and will fly up to 30 kilometers a night in search of food. They primarily eat nectar and fruit, and their movements are highly dependent on food availability. This is why I believe that severe haze events in 1997 may have led to poor fruit production in the following years, making orchards an appealing food source.

I hope that by understanding the factors that drove the emergence of Nipah virus, scientists can make meaningful recommendations that will prevent future outbreaks of Nipah-like viruses, which probably exist wherever there are flying foxes.

---

## Ten Years for the MS-Health Communication Program

*continued from p. 1*

change with the times. Among ideas being considered are: the introduction of tracks (e.g. a writing track) to enable students to use electives to dive deeper into one area of study; the use of

alternative pathways into the program as a way to attract new students (e.g. employees of corporate organizations might be offered 2 – 3 classes, which, upon successful completion, could be applied toward the degree); the development of an international/global health focus.

For the ten years they have been in existence, the HCOM programs at Tufts and Emerson have provided an excellent basis for students of all backgrounds to find employment in both the public and private sectors. This group of trained professionals is one of a kind and with the continued input and feedback from current students and alumni, the program will only get better.

# Empowering Patients to Reduce Mental Health Disparities



Paige Berry, MPH '02

*Paige Berry is a Project Manager at Center for Multicultural Mental Health Research a research center located at the Cambridge Health Alliance and affiliated with the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. She has been active in the development and planning of the project (i.e. research and development of appropriate outcome measures, instruments to measure the decided outcomes, and establishing relationships with Cambridge Health Alliance sites, etc.) and is responsible for the implementation of all three phases.*

“Health disparities.” “The widening gap in health status among racial and ethnic populations.” We read and hear of studies that mention the existence of disparities nearly every day. The fact that there are disparities between racial and ethnic minorities and whites when it comes to mental health care is not surprising. In fact, the landmark 1999 Surgeon General’s report on mental health and its supplement in 2001, *Mental Health, Culture, Race and Ethnicity*, specifically acknowledges that racial and ethnic minorities (herein referred to as minorities) have less access to mental health treatment than whites, and the quality of that care is often inferior. We know that mental health disparities exist, but less is known about solutions for reducing them.

An answer, perhaps, is to find a way to improve the interaction between minorities and the mental health care system.

Some studies suggest that a collaborative relationship between providers and patients may improve recognition and treatment of depression in primary care. But since minority patients seeking mental health treatment in primary care are less likely to have a collaborative relationship with providers than similarly situated white patients, one approach might be to activate and empower minority patients to better collaborate with their providers.

Research conducted to date has not been able to determine the independent effect of patient activation and empowerment on improved outcomes for depression. Given this, the Center for Multicultural Mental Health Research (CMMHR) applied for and received funding from the National Institute of Mental Health to conduct a pilot study to test this research question: Will patient activation/empowerment lead to improved outcomes for depression (i.e., adherence to treatment, improved quality of care) in Latino and African Caribbean populations? For this pilot study, patient activation/empowerment is characterized as a patient feeling that s/he has an active and valued role when interacting with providers and making decisions about treatment.

This culturally appropriate pilot study relies on the innovative work developed by the Right Question Project (RQP, [www.rightquestion.org](http://www.rightquestion.org)), a non-profit organization located in Cambridge, MA, that works primarily with low- and moderate-income communities with a history of disengagement from education, health care, and other social services. The RQP approach builds people’s capacity to use a deceptively simple, but quite powerful skill; the ability to formulate their own questions. This skill is then enhanced by learning how to use an equally simple and powerful framework for figuring out how to participate in key decisions that affect them. These are essential but often overlooked elements for any approach for “empowering” patients. To date, the RQP strategy has

been adapted to help people navigate welfare agencies, housing programs, homeless shelters, job training centers, and many other publicly supported agencies, programs and institutions.

This pilot study will be rolled out in three phases. Phase 1, the focus group phase, was recently completed and helped determine that the mental health setting is an appropriate environment for the RQP approach. Phase 2 will begin in March, and involves adapting the RQP strategy to a mental health setting. Once adapted, Phase 3 will teach the RQP strategy to Latino and African Caribbean patients with depression in primary care. Data will be collected over a two-year period and statistically analyzed to determine if learning the RQP strategy activates patients and improves depression outcomes. If activation/empowerment improves outcomes, we may be one step closer to reducing and ultimately eliminating mental health disparities.

## 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.

Robin Glover, Editor  
Swapna Rao, Assistant Editor

Comments should be sent to:  
Robin Glover  
Graduate Programs in Public Health  
Family Medicine & Community Health  
Tufts University School of Medicine  
136 Harrison Avenue  
Boston, MA 02111  
Tel: (617) 636-2497  
[robin.glover@tufts.edu](mailto:robin.glover@tufts.edu)

Visit the GPPH Web site:  
[www.tufts.edu/med/gpph/index.html](http://www.tufts.edu/med/gpph/index.html)

# Benefits of a MD/MPH: An Alumnus' Perspective

*Sam Stebbins, MD/MPH'91*

As a graduate of the 2<sup>nd</sup> combined MD/MPH class at Tufts (1991), I feel fortunate to have been in on the ground floor of what has become a very popular and dynamic undertaking. Teachers such as Drs. Morton Madoff and Markley Boyer provided the kind of local, national and international insight that made the program both useful and fun. I am impressed and gladdened at how the program has expanded and at how many medical students choose this option. I also think that keeping the program to 4 years has two important advantages – it doesn't increase the length of medical training and it keeps the medical and public health curricula integrated over the course of a student's time at Tufts.

After Tufts I went through two residencies – one in Family Practice and one in Preventive Medicine – both at Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) in Portland, OR. One advantage to already having my MPH from Tufts and having done my clinical training was that the Preventive Medicine training was only one year in length. Even better,

OHSU now has a combined four-year Family Practice/Preventive Medicine residency that provides wonderfully coordinated training, board-eligibility in two disciplines, and an MPH, all in only four years.

I am now coming up on the end of my fifth year as the deputy health officer for San Mateo County, California. San Mateo is a beautiful, somewhat unknown county that comprises the area south of San Francisco and north of Stanford. It includes the San Francisco airport, the Ritz Hotel in Half Moon Bay, and the sea lions at Ano Nuevo state park on the Pacific Ocean. The county is richly diverse both in terms of geography and population, with nearly one quarter of the population Latino and another quarter from every possible Asian country and Pacific island.

Some of my many roles include: Tuberculosis Controller, STD Controller, and Medical Director for our Mobile Health Clinic. I work with homeless shelter providers to improve services for their clients and reduce the risk of outbreaks. I have spent many hours

developing domestic and family violence screening and prevention training for medical providers. I work with our Health Education section on a variety of projects, including safe medication dosing for seniors and increased activity for sedentary adults. Landfills, recycled water, safe food, shigella and e.coli outbreaks, contaminated parks, risks of electromagnetic fields from high-power lines – all of these are issues I have been asked to become an “instant” expert on and provide insight and guidance to the community. And of course bioterrorism, which takes up all the extra time we didn't have anyway.

Public health is an amazing potpourri of fundamentally important health issues. If clinical medicine is what helps you after you have fallen off the cliff, public health is the fence at the top of the cliff to keep you out of harms way. It is an uphill battle, with never enough funding and always new challenges, such as SARS, Avian Influenza, and obesity to name just a few of the latest. But it is rewarding and endlessly interesting, and I recommend it to anyone looking for a challenge.

## MD/MPH 2004 Residencies

**Nisha Basu**, Internal Medicine, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA

**Madhav Boddula**, Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

**Kenneth Chang**, General Surgery, Kern Medical Center, Bakersfield, CA

**Christopher Chinn**, Anesthesiology, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH

**Allison Christie**, Family Practice, Boston University Medical Center, Boston, MA

**John Christodouleas**, Radiation Oncol-

ogy, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD

**Jesse Chuang**, Internal Medicine, Olive View/UCLA Medical Center, Sylmar, CA

**Kathryn Doughty**, Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Connecticut Program, Farmington, CT

**Alison Kole**, Internal Medicine, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA

**Jacqueline Masequesmay**, Family Practice, Northridge Hospital Medical Center, Northridge, CA

**George Meyers**, Family Practice, Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, NC

**Elizabeth Molina-Ortiz**, Family Practice, Beth Israel Medical Center, New York, NY

**Carla Pruden**, Pediatrics, Einstein College of Medicine - Montefiore, Bronx, NY

**Christopher Rake**, General Surgery, Kaiser Permanente, Los Angeles, CA

**Andrew Richter**, Family Practice, Swedish Medical Center, Seattle, WA

**Jennifer Suga**, Internal Medicine, Brown University, Providence, RI

**Nioke Wright**, Internal Medicine, Tulane University Program, New Orleans, LA

# PHSS: Building Community and GPPH Student Leaders



2003-2004 Public Health Student Senate, l-r, Tandra Stevenson, Jessie Glasser, Yen Truong, Sunindia Bhalla, Ekwutosi Okoroh, Allison Christie

*Tandra Stevenson, MS Health Communication '04*

Starting the New Year with vigor, the Tufts Public Health Student Senate rolled out a platter of programs and initiatives. With approval from the Graduate Programs in Public Health (GPPH) Steering Committee, the Senate introduced several proposals based on feedback from the spring 2003 student survey which include the development of more student involvement in the community, student outreach and professional development.

Focused on improving communication with students, the Senate created a listserv, the Tufts Graduate Programs in Public Health Students & Alumni Network, to promote career networking, the professional development of students in the field, and foster better communication among undergraduates, graduates and alumni. If you would like to join the GPPH student/alumni listserv, visit [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/gpphstudents](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/gpphstudents).

Also the Senate partnered with the Office of Graduate Degree Programs to establish a GPPH Student Ambassador Program to assist with student recruitment. The program provides GPPH students the opportunity to share their Tufts ex-

perience with prospective students and promote the GPPH at various events like the upcoming open house on April 8th.

I have initiated a working group to construct a student-run, peer-reviewed, online public health journal at Tufts, which was inspired to enhance the GPPH student experience. Having an online journal will give students a chance to publish and

promote public health at Tufts. The journal also will allow students to do more with their applied learning experience projects.

With the new leadership of Dr. Michael Rosenblatt, the medical school dean and Dr. Harris Berman, Chair of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health and , the Senate began building relationships with administration to raise awareness of GPPH students' issues. The Senate hosted the March GPPH Social Hour featuring Dean Rosenblatt for students to meet and speak with him about the future of public health in the medical school.

The Senate will kick off National Public Health Week on April 3rd with a forum on health disparities focusing on preparing future student leaders in health to improve social and health justices with key sponsorship from Tufts GPPH, Tufts Medical School, and Pfizer. Led by key opinion leaders, the forum's case-based approach will exhibit strategies in marketing, management, cultural and linguistic competency, political advocacy, environmental stress effects in underserved communities, and the role of data collection in addressing racial/ethnic health disparities. People can find facts and recommended publications on

the forum's website at [www.tufts.edu/med/gpph/PHSS/forum2004](http://www.tufts.edu/med/gpph/PHSS/forum2004). To ensure student participation, the Senate collaborated with Dr. Anthony Robbins to have the forum in place of the spring Tufts public health/health management grand rounds.

To reach out to communities, the Senate will work with the Tufts Health Careers Opportunity Program to have GPPH students share their public health career preparation and experiences with the University of Massachusetts' Boston high school students through the Senate's Public Health Career Day in late April. Studies show that youth, particularly African Americans and Hispanics, lack exposure of role models in the health professions, so we want to highlight the GPPH students as role models for some of Boston's youth.

As an American Public Health Association campus liaison for Tufts GPPH, I attended the 2nd National Leadership Conference for Students in Healthcare in Washington, D.C. in January. My health communication background added value in that I crafted the communication strategy for the group. Initiated by the Student Health Alliance (SHA), a coalition of 13 national student health professional organizations dedicated to improving the health of communities, the goal of the conference was to develop key priorities for SHA. To learn more about SHA, visit [www.phsc.org/sha.html](http://www.phsc.org/sha.html).



# Alumni Notes

## MPH

**Julie Robarts, MS-Nutrition/MPH'98**, of North Reading, MA, is a Dietetic Internship Coordinator at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in the Nutrition Services Department.

**Kerry (McDonald) Conley, MPH'01**, of Waltham, MA, is a Senior Clinical Research Associate at Boston Scientific Corporation in Natick. Congratulations to Kerry on her recent marriage!

**Christine Horan, MPH'02**, of Allston, MA, is a Program Coordinator at the American Lung Association of Massachusetts. She is going to be running the Boston Marathon this year for the Massachusetts Amateur Sports Foundation, which runs the Bay State Games.

**Molly Belozor, MPH'02**, of Gladstone, OR, recently moved back to her hometown and is spending time with her family while job searching. Best of luck to her!

Congratulations to **Maria (Westberg) Adams, MS/MPH'03**, of Jamaica Plain, MA, who wed Peter Adams this past September! She recently started working as a Health Writer/Editor at HealthGate.

**Kristen Riehman, MS-Nutrition/MPH'03**, of Atlanta, GA, is a Health Communication Fellow in the Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity at the Centers of Disease Control.

## MD/MPH

**Phyllis Dunckel, MD/MPH'91**, of Longview, WA, is a staff physician in the Department of Family Practice at the Peace Health Medical Group.

**Lisa Jane Jacobsen, MD/MPH'91**, of Canton, MA, is an obstetrician/gynecologist working in pediatric and adolescent gynecology in the Boston area.

**Kerry (Gallivan) Bennett, MD/MPH'93**, of Lakeville, MA, is a General Surgeon who specializes in minimally invasive surgery and breast surgery in New Bedford. She and her husband John are enjoying life with their two children Sam, age 4, and Jack age 2 and dog Maggie, age 10! She would love to reconnect with her fellow classmates.

**Thomas Brazelton, MD/MPH'94**, of Madison, WI, is busy serving as the Chair and Medical Director of Wisconsin's Emergency Medical System for Children (EMSC) program and sitting on the EMS Board's Physician Advisory Committee as the pediatric representative. His full-time job is as an academic pediatric intensivist at the University of Wisconsin in charge of Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation and a new pediatric transport service. He is "loving every minute" of his active life!

**Michael Bruce, MD/MPH'94**, of Anchorage, AK, is a medical epidemiologist for the Arctic Investigations Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He loves living in Alaska where he can enjoy outdoor sports such as skiing, sledding, hiking, sailing, camping, and fishing with his wife Kari and children Fiona, age 7, and Dylan, age 5. Currently, he is working with a number of different Alaskan Native groups on infectious disease issues and is also trying to develop a global surveillance network for all countries in the circumpolar north.

**Katherine McGowan, MD/MPH'94**, of Guilford, CT, is an attending physician in Pediatric Emergency Medicine at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford.

**Mollie Kane, MD/MPH'96**, of Madison, WI, is a lecturer in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin.

**David Melnick, MD/MPH'96**, of Madison, WI, is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of Wisconsin.

After surviving the UCSF-San Francisco General Hospital Family Practice Residency Program and finishing in 2001, **Ava Lee, MD/MPH'98**, of San Francisco, CA, has begun work at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Geriatrics and Extended Care. She still thrives on working in community clinics, especially St. Anthony's Free Medical Clinic, which serves San Francisco's uninsured and often drug-dependent and homeless populations. She's also relishing more "couple-time" with her husband now that both kids are away at college.

**Julie Bauman, MD/MPH'99**, of Salt Lake

City, UT, recently completed her internal medicine residency and is currently Primary Care Faculty at the VA Medical Center in. In July 2004, she will begin an oncology fellowship at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, WA. On top of all this, she is expecting her third child, who will join Lukas, age 5, and Karina, age 2, in May!

**Christina Gillespie, MD/MPH'99**, of Washington, DC, is a Family Physician with Unity Health Care, Inc., an organization whose mission is to provide care to the urban underserved. In addition, she recently became engaged to Ryan Lizza.

**Kyra Cass, MD/MPH'01**, of Augusta, ME, will graduate from Maine Dartmouth FPR this coming June. After that, she and her husband Azhar will head to Fort Kent, ME on the Canadian border, and they welcome visitors who like wintry weather and cross-country skiing!

**Jennifer Chen, MD/MPH'02**, of Los Angeles, CA, is in her PGY-2 year in the Emergency Medicine/Internal Medicine program at UCLA.

Congratulations to **Thomas Faber, MD/MPH'02**, of West Roxbury, MA and his wife Kate who are expecting a baby in June! He is in his second year of the Harvard Med/Peds program.

## MS-Health Communication

Congratulations to **Laurie LaRusso, MS'98**, of Melrose, MA, who will be having her first baby in March! She is a Senior Medical Writer at Boston Scientific Corporation, where she writes scientific manuscripts. In addition, she is President of the New England Chapter of the American Medical Writers Association and is certified as an Editor of Life Sciences by the Board of Editors in the Life Sciences.

**Dana McCants, MS'98**, of Providence, RI, recently got engaged to Guidou Derisier of Boston, and plans are underway for a nuptial in Rhode Island this fall. Best wishes to her and Guidou!

**Rozanne Puleo, MS'02**, of Dorchester, MA, started a new position as a research associate at the AgeLab at MIT, where she helps develop ideas and technologies that improve the quality of life for older adults.

---

## Career Services 2003 - 2004 Activities

*Chantal Poschmann*

---

This year the Graduate Programs in Public Health (GPPH) Career Services Office has been very busy coordinating various career activities for students and alumni. We kicked off the fall 2003 semester with a workshop on "How to Find an Applied Learning Experience". We invited three alumni, Thomas Ostrander, MPH'03, Maria Anguiano, MPH'03 and Amy Branowicki, MPH'02, who gave practical advice on how to have a successful ALE. Other workshops included: "Resume & Cover Letter Writing"; "Effective Networking"; "Job Searching on the Web"; and "Developing Dynamic Interviewing Skills".

The GPPH Career Services Office hosted an Alumni Career Panel and the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Internship Fair. The panel was moderated by Alan Balsam, PhD, MPH, the Commissioner of Brookline Department of Public Health, and the panelists were Paige Berry, MPH'02, Polyxane Mertzanis, MPH'01, Julie Fritzinger, MS-Health Communication '00, and Srilakshmi Ravi,

MPH'98. The panelists discussed how their jobs apply to public health as well as how to find a job in this economy.

We were very excited to host our first Internship Fair. It was a great success, students were able to meet with representatives from a variety of public health organizations and learn about available opportunities.

The Career Services Office is here to serve student and alumni needs and is committed to trying to accommodate their schedule. Therefore, one-on-one meetings can be arranged for students and alumni who are unable to attend a workshop or event.

As we start preparing for next year's career services activities, we would like to know if there are any workshops/events that interests you, so please e-mail us with your suggestions at [CHFMCareerServices@tufts.edu](mailto:CHFMCareerServices@tufts.edu).

*For a list of upcoming events go the Career Services web site at <http://www.tufts.edu/med/gpph/CareerServices/index.html>*

---

## Welcome New OGDP Staff Member

The Office of Graduate Degree Programs (OGDP) is pleased to welcome Christina Ventresca as the new Assistant Director of Admissions and Student Services. Before coming to Tufts, Christina worked as the Assistant Director for the Honors Program at Northeastern University. Christina also attended Northeastern as an undergraduate and majored in mathematics. She will oversee the admissions processes for the various degree programs of the OGDP, as well as becoming familiar with the student service functions.

Please stop by the OGDP, Sackler Building, room 417, to welcome Christina to Tufts.

Tufts University School of Medicine  
Graduate Programs in Public Health  
Department of Family Medicine & Community Health  
136 Harrison Avenue  
Boston, MA. 02111