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How teen driving became safer PAGE 14

Stressful home life linked to obesity in young girls

A stressful home life predisposes young girls to early onset obesity, according to a new study in *Pediatrics* by Dr. Shakira Suglia, assistant professor of epidemiology, and her colleagues. Interestingly, the study did not find a similar association for boys.

The researchers looked at 1,605 pre-school aged U.S. children, obtaining reports from their mothers on various stressors the children may have been subjected to between 1-3 years of age, such as intimate partner violence, maternal depressive symptoms or substance use, and a father's incarceration.

When children's height and weight were measured at age five, 17% were obese. Girls were twice as likely to be obese if their mothers had reported their experiencing two or more stressors at age three. Those results are similar to two earlier studies which found an association between depression and obesity in adolescent girls but not boys.

"It's possible that girls internalize things differently than boys. Other studies have shown they respond differently to stress. Girls tend to internalize more and to have more depressive behaviors," says Dr. Suglia.

The association between early childhood stressors and obesity could potentially reflect parenting behaviors such as providing the child with a poor diet and not encouraging physical activity. In a stressful home environment food may also be used as a tool for rewarding or calming children, the researchers suggest.

"For families who are experiencing all these stresses, obesity is one more thing and may not be as high a priority as others," says Dr. Suglia. "Particularly for girls, when



"It's possible that girls internalize things differently than boys. Girls tend to internalize more and to have more depressive behaviors."

you're seeing these patients coming in as obese children at age 5, there is probably more going on than what they're eating and what their physical activity is."

It is one of the first studies to examine obesity risk factors in young children.

Up until now, most studies examining social stressors have focused on school-aged children or adolescents. Additionally, few prior studies have taken a longitudinal approach. The story was covered in *CNN* and *US News & World Report*, among other media outlets.

Suglia SF, Duarte CS, Chambers EC, Boynton-Jarrett R. Cumulative Social Risk and Obesity in Early Childhood. *Pediatrics*. 2012 Apr 16. [Epub ahead of print]



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear colleagues,



Welcome to the June 2012 issue of *Two by Two*, the Epidemiology Department newsletter. In our final issue of the academic year we take pride in celebrating our master's and doctoral graduates both for successfully completing a rigorous course of epidemiologic study and for their own contributions to research in the field, as evidenced by the impressive and inspiring array of master's theses and doctoral dissertations completed this year. Our graduation social had a very special theme, "Celebrating our leaders of today and tomorrow" and honored some of the distinguished senior faculty members who were featured as "giants among us" in these pages over the past year, along with our graduates, the giants of the future.

The coverage of departmental science in this issue is also something we can take pride in – Drs. Suglia and Rundle both tackle the complex factors implicated in childhood obesity. This issue's Lines of Inquiry piece explores the history and the science around teen driving hazards and the public health interventions that are making a difference.

On June 4, the Department will welcome the participants of EPIC 2012, The Epidemiology and Population Health Summer Institute Columbia. This year more than 200 trainees will take part in 25 half-day weeklong courses taught by Department faculty as well as others from around the Medical Center.

Coming soon: our special summer issue of *Two by Two*, "For Students: A Guide to Everything," which includes a broad compendium of useful information and resources designed to optimize our trainees' educational experience and make the most out of their time in New York City.

Have wonderful summer!

Warm regards,

HAPPENING IN JUNE

| | | | |
|------------|---------------|----------------------------|--|
| June 1 | 1:00-3:00pm | 11th Floor Conference Room | Chronic Disease Epidemiology Cluster Seminar |
| June 7 | 12:00-1:00pm | 5th Floor Conference Room | Speaker: Gerald C Smaldone, MD, PhD (co-sponsored by CIRAR and Epidemiology) |
| June 8 | 8:30am-5:00pm | 8th Floor Auditorium | CUESS: The Mind-Brain Intersection, Population Science Over the Lifecourse |
| June 12 | 11:00-12:00pm | 11th Floor Conference Room | Special Lecture: Steve Weine, PhD |
| June 14 | 2:00-3:00pm | 11th Floor Conference Room | Special Lecture: Joy Baumgartner, PhD |
| June 15 | 12:00-1:00pm | 8th Floor Auditorium | Chronic Disease Epidemiology Cluster Seminar |
| June 15 | 1:00-3:00pm | Hess Commons | Faculty Meeting |
| June 19 | 2:00-3:00pm | 11th Floor Conference Room | Special Lecture: Julian Abrams, MD, MS |
| June 27-30 | | Minneapolis, MN | Society for Epidemiologic Research Conference |



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to keep up with the latest Department news and events.



PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Place-based intervention associated with significant reduction in violence

A new study first-authored by Dr. Magdalena Cerdá, assistant professor of epidemiology, and colleagues has found a significant association between infrastructure improvements and reduced violence and homicide rates in various low-income neighborhoods in Medellín, Colombia.

The researchers examined the effects of municipal investment in the construction of a public transit system that connects isolated low-income neighborhoods to the city's urban center. The decline in homicide was found to be 66% times greater in neighborhoods linked to the transit system than in matched neighborhoods that were not linked, and the decline in reports of violent events was 74% higher in the linked neighborhoods.

It is one of the first studies to capitalize on an exogenous source of neighborhood change to examine the impact that neighborhood investment may have on health. Although prior investigations found that neighborhood characteristics were associated with rates of violence, critics often dismissed such findings as resting on observational evidence.

"Our findings have potential policy implications for urban settings beyond Medellín and indicate that it is possible, even in low- to middle-income countries, to invest municipal resources in neighborhood interventions that will have an important impact in population health," says Dr. Cerdá.



PART OF THE NEW METROPLÚS SYSTEM IN COLOMBIA.

Cerdá M, Morenoff JD, Hansen BB, Tessari Hicks KJ, Duque LF, Restrepo A, Diez-Roux AV. Reducing Violence by Transforming Neighborhoods: A Natural Experiment in Medellín, Colombia. *Am J Epidemiol*. 2012 Apr 2. [Epub ahead of print]



Pollution linked to childhood obesity

A new study led by Dr. Andrew Rundle, associate professor of epidemiology, has found that childhood obesity in low income neighborhoods is linked to prenatal air pollution exposure. Pregnant women in New York City who were exposed to higher concentrations of chemicals called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs, were more than twice as likely to have children who were obese by age seven as women with lower levels of exposure. The study was covered by the *Atlantic Wire*, *Time*, and *NY1*, among other publications. "Obesity is a complex disease with multiple risk factors. These data suggest that obesity isn't just the result of individual choices like diet and exercise but that other factors can predispose us to weight gain," says Dr. Rundle.

Rundle A, Hoepner L, Hassoun A, Oberfield S, Freyer G, Holmes D, Reyes M, Quinn J, Camann D, Perera F, Whyatt R. Association of Childhood Obesity With Maternal Exposure to Ambient Air Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons During Pregnancy. *Am J Epidemiol*. 2012 Apr 13. [Epub ahead of print]



Ex-prisoners at heightened risk of death immediately after leaving prison

It is well known that serving prison time puts people at heightened risk of early death. Now, a new study senior authored by Dr. Bonnie Kerker, adjunct assistant professor of epidemiology, and colleagues finds that the risk does not dissipate after people are released from prison. According to the results, ex-prisoners in New York City are two times as likely to die from drug-related causes, suicide, and homicide immediately after their release, compared with those who have never been incarcerated. "These results suggest that jail- and community-based interventions are needed to reduce the excess mortality risk among formerly incarcerated people," say the authors.

Lim S, Seligson AL, Parvez FM, Luther CW, Mavinkurve MP, Binswanger IA, Kerker BD. Risks of drug-related death, suicide, and homicide during the immediate post-release period among people released from New York City jails, 2001-2005. *Am J Epidemiol.* 2012;175(6):519-26.

Early weaning from breastfeeding risky for children of HIV-positive mothers

Children of HIV positive mothers who are weaned from breastfeeding at six months are at increased risk of contracting and dying from pneumonia or diarrhea, according to a new study from Malawi. Moreover HIV transmission continued despite high reported compliance. "Early weaning is neither effective nor safe as an HIV prevention strategy," Dr. Louise Kuhn, professor of epidemiology (in the Sergievsky center), says in a commentary on the study for the *Lancet*. Transmission of HIV from mother to child through breast feeding can be prevented through the use of anti-retrovirals. The new results from Malawi reinforce how ill-advised early weaning is for infants of HIV-positive mothers, consistent with past studies by Dr. Kuhn and others.

Kuhn L, Coovadia HM. Protecting infants of HIV-positive mothers in Malawi. *Lancet.* 2012 Apr 25. [Epub ahead of print]



IN THE NEWS



Dr. Li weighs in on marijuana regulations

CBS NEWS **WNYC**

The dramatic increase in medical marijuana patients has led to more people driving while high. What is unclear is how high they actually are. Dr. Guohua Li, the Finster professor of anesthesiological sciences and epidemiology (in anesthesiology), told *CBS News* about the subject, that—unlike with alcohol—“there’s no sure answer” to the question of how driving-impaired one is from smoking marijuana, and at what levels the drug causes impairment. Dr. Li also commented for a WNYC piece about New York City’s decision to outlaw synthetic marijuana, which he says would be difficult to enforce.

Dr. Neugut on whether aspirin use can prevent cancer

The New York Times

Aspirin may reduce the risk of many cancers, but should Americans be encouraged to take it for preventive purposes if there are other side effects? Dr. Al Neugut, Studner professor of cancer research (in medicine) and professor of epidemiology, tells *The New York Times* that one has to think from a public health point of view. If aspirin reduces the risk of colorectal cancer by 50% and there is 1 case in 1000 each year, it may take treating as many as 2,000 people with aspirin to prevent a single case of colon cancer a year. “The question is: what does aspirin do on a daily basis to 2,000 people?” he says. If more than 20 have bleeding episodes, then an aspirin regimen may not be worthwhile, he adds.

Testing for Mad Cow Disease may have unintended consequences, says Dr. Morse

Popular Mechanics

Following the detection of Mad Cow Disease in California, some people are urging increased bovine surveillance. However, stepping up cow testing could result in more harm than good, Dr. Stephen Morse tells *Popular Mechanics*. “The cost of testing would be very high. It’s a tragic disease for both people and cattle, but we’ve seen very few cases of it,” he says. Although he is not universally against testing, Dr. Morse, professor of clinical epidemiology, says it would lead to many false positives which could “harm farmers’ reputations and could result in a significant loss of income, without any health benefits to the public.”

Blacks and Hispanics at significant risk for colon polyps, finds Dr. Lebowhl study

DAILY NEWS

Blacks and Hispanics are more likely to develop precancerous colorectal polyps than whites, according to a new study led by Dr. Benjamin Lebowhl, assistant professor of clinical medicine and clinical epidemiology. “Our data suggest that we need to redouble our efforts to increase colon cancer screening in areas with large numbers of racial and ethnic minorities,” he told the *New York Daily News*.

Dr. Galea finds suicide rate increased during economic stress

UPI.com

The suicide rate in New York City increased during periods of economic downturn, according to a study senior authored by Dr. Sandro Galea, Gelman professor and chair, which was published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* and reported on by *UPI*. The study found that the suicide rate was 29 percent higher at an economic low point in the economy in 1992 than in 2000, when the economy had hit a peak. Middle-aged white men in particular had a higher risk of suicide in economically weaker periods compared to when the economy was thriving. Dr. Galea emphasizes that suicide has many influences: “The drivers of suicide are complicated, and it is likely a combination of forces with, for example, economic stresses on top of a strained relationship that ultimately drive completed suicides. Economic hardship can play a particular role in limiting the availability of social resources, including mental healthcare that can otherwise help buffer the potential adverse impact of other life events.”

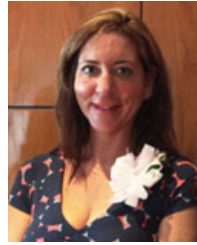
AWARDS



Dr. Yang receives Minority Mental Health award

Dr. Lawrence Yang, assistant professor of epidemiology, has received the American Psychiatric Foundation’s Award for Advancing Minority Mental Health. The honor is given to individuals who have worked to increase access to quality mental health services for underserved minorities.

Dr. Yang will use his award to support his anti-stigma work among Chinese immigrants with psychosis.



Elizabeth Ferrari receives Staff Award in Excellence

Ms. Elizabeth Ferrari, manager for academic programs, was recognized for her outstanding work at the Mailman School with a 2012 Staff Award in Excellence.

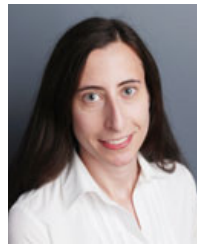
Nominees for these awards, given annually since 2006, are submitted by the candidates’ supervisors. Winners are then chosen by a committee with representatives from all academic departments and the Dean’s Office. According to her nominee, “Elizabeth is flexible, hardworking, reliable, organized, and highly skilled.”



Dr. Lovasi honored by American Thoracic Society and MESA

Dr. Gina Lovasi, assistant professor of epidemiology, has been chosen by the American Thoracic Society to receive the Assembly on Environmental and Occupational Health David Bates Award, which recognizes promising investigation in the field of environmental and occupational health.

Dr. Lovasi received the award for her lead authored paper “Urban tree canopy and the development of asthma, wheeze, rhinitis, and allergic sensitization to tree pollen in a birth cohort study.” She also recently was honored with the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis Young Investigator Award (MESA).

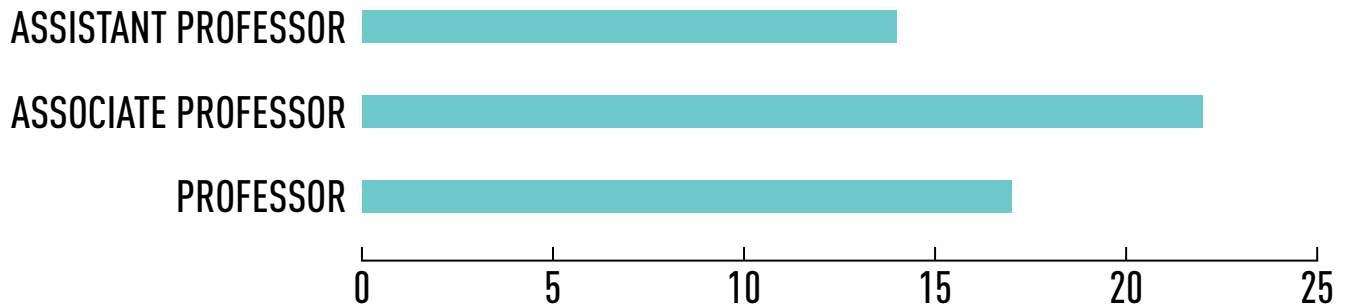


Dr. Gordon receives teaching award

Columbia University Medical Center recognized Dr. Rachel Gordon, assistant professor of clinical medicine and clinical epidemiology, with the Charles W. Bohmfalk Award for Distinguished Contributions to Teaching for excellence during pre-clinical years.

SUBMITTED GRANTS

DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, JANUARY–MAY 2012



NEW RELEASES



Dr. Bates co-edits special journal issue

Dr. Lisa Bates, assistant professor of epidemiology, is co-editor of a special issue of *Social Science and Medicine* that looks at gender and health using relational, intersectional, and biosocial approaches. The issue strives to move away from the predominant focus on binary constructions of gender and differences in male and female health outcomes, toward a more critical, relational approach to gender and health. Originating

out of a working group of the Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars Program at Columbia University, the issue consists of contributions from scholars in a range of disciplines including sociology, political science, public health, medicine, and chemistry. According to the editors, "this body of work represents another 'defining moment' in gender and health research. It focuses on issues and features models that chart new paths for researchers, decision makers, and advocates engaged with explaining gendered patterns in health, and working toward health equity."

BRIEF MENTIONS

Dr. Andrew Rundle attends TED MED

Dr. Andrew Rundle was invited to the TED MED conference from April 10-13 in Washington, DC, to take part in the 50 Great Challenges Program, in which each attendee advocated for a health challenge. Dr. Rundle's "Promoting Active Lifestyles" challenge was voted as one of the top and will be part of a series of webinars that TED will produce on the winners. The program was sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.



Dr. Abdool Karim appointed president of South African Medical Research Council

Dr. Salim Abdool Karim has been named President of the South African Medical Research Council. According to the Council, the appointment of Dr. Abdool Karim, who is director of the AIDS research center CAPRISA, "will further strengthen [its] health research reputation as well as build on its impact on everyday health in South Africa." He assumes this position in a part-time capacity and will be continuing with his work at CAPRISA and Columbia University.





Jeanine Genkinger, PhD, is an epidemiologist who focuses on the study of diet, obesity, and associated biomarkers as they relate to risk of rare cancers. The goal of her research is to identify and examine the causes of pancreatic and ovarian cancer.

Dr. Genkinger's interest in epidemiology began while she was working for a contract research organization in Chicago that ran phase III clinical trials, working on hypercholesterolemia and osteoporosis studies. Through this, she became interested in the prevention of chronic diseases that affect the elderly.

She obtained a PhD in epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she researched aging and health, examining endogenous and exogenous antioxidants and their effect on mortality. Dr. Genkinger showed that higher antioxidant-promoting fruit and vegetable intake was associated with a 30-40% lower risk of all-cause, cancer, and cardiovascular disease death.

She went on to complete a joint post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard School of Public Health and the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden, where she examined the relation between dietary intake, anthropometry and ovarian and pancreatic cancer risk. At Harvard she began working on a large-scale international consortium—which she continues to this day—called the Pooling Project of Prospective Studies of Diet and Cancer, which combines original data from over 30 prospective cohort studies to examine diet and its relationship to cancer risk. Dr. Genkinger, in collaboration with the consortium, has reported on a number of key findings, including that high intakes of sugar and sweetened beverages, high intakes of alcohol, and obesity during adulthood are predictive of pancreatic cancer.

Prior to her recruitment here, Dr. Genkinger worked as an Assistant Professor at the Georgetown Lombardi Cancer Center. She was involved in a large NCI N contract, TobPRAC, which investigates novel biomarkers related to tobacco exposure and cancer risk. In collaboration with colleagues, she led a large molecular epidemiology study with repeated measurement of biospecimens and questionnaire data.

Dr. Genkinger received the Mailman School's Calderone Research Award for Junior Faculty in late 2011 to develop a pilot study that examines the association between epigenetics and pancreatic cancer. In addition, she is the recipient of the 2012 Women At Risk (WAR) Research Grants titled, "Epigenetics and breast and ovarian cancer in high risk women," which will allow for the examination of key genes methylated in breast and ovarian tissue in high risk women.

Dr. Genkinger teaches Epidemiology III in the summer and co-teaches nutritional epidemiology. In the fall she will teach the quantitative core course for the new MPH curriculum and the Epidemiology I course for the Executive MS program. In the past she has taught clinicians at a weeklong course in South Africa at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She is currently on the curriculum and the methods examination committees within the Department of Epidemiology, and she previously held a position on the Mailman School's curriculum renewal committee.

Dr. Genkinger is passionate about understanding the origins of the rare and highly fatal forms of cancer that she has studied over the last decade. Her research focuses on a variety of lifestyle and dietary exposures and related biomarkers that may be beneficial in preventing highly fatal cancers. Although the causes of these diseases are in many ways still a mystery, she is optimistic about the increased attention and funding for research in the area.

"Every day, I want to understand better what's going on with ovarian and pancreatic cancer in the hopes that this information will lessen the morbidity and mortality associated with these diseases," she says.





It was not Jamie Geier's (PhD '07) plan to begin a career in the pharmaceutical industry after matriculating from the Department of Epidemiology. In fact, she wrote her dissertation on the phenomenon of drug company advertisements influencing the incidence and prevalence of a condition or syndrome.

But after landing a job as a part time consultant for Pfizer, Dr. Geier discovered that working in the pharmaceutical industry was different than she had expected.

"I didn't understand what exactly was done in the pharmaceutical industry from an epidemiologic perspective," she says. "When I went into it I had the opportunity to see the variety of work, the importance of the work, and how I could apply everything I learned in my classes, and I fell in love with it. It's very structured, and of course there are some limitations, but I think one of the best parts about it is everyone works as a team."

Five years later Dr. Geier is still at Pfizer in a rewarding career, working as an epidemiologist in the Worldwide Safety Strategy division in Midtown Manhattan. Her job is to assess risk mitigation strategies for safety events related to specific drugs.

Dr. Geier graduated from Colby College with a bachelor's in sociology and history planning to eventually attend medical school. However, her first job after college as a research assistant at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston changed her mind. She worked on clinical trials and was immediately drawn to the epidemiologic methods that she used on the job. She decided to pursue an MPH at the Mailman School which led her to the doctoral program.

During the PhD, Dr. Geier was a Psychiatric Epidemiology Training program fellow. She focused her research on physical and mental co-morbidities. She recalls the high standards of her dissertation sponsor Dr. Sharon Schwartz, who continuously drove Dr. Geier to increase the quality of her dissertation. Ms. Liliane Zaretsky was also a constant source of wisdom and guidance during Dr. Geier's time as a doctoral candidate.

Today, in addition to her position at Pfizer, Dr. Geier teaches an epidemiology sequence in the fall to students at Baruch College, which she took on as a result of her positive experience as a teaching assistant when she was in Epi.

Dr. Geier relies on her epidemiology training constantly at work.

"I have been known to pull out books and notes from my methods exams to just refresh. There are a group of us who are re-reading our textbooks just to keep on top of it because there are nuances that we forget," she says.

Dr. Geier currently works alongside several alumni from the Department, including two colleagues from her doctoral cohort and current faculty members, Drs. Ulka Campbell and Nicolle Gatto.

"I never realized when I was there that the friendships I made would lead to life-long friendships connections and working relationships that are very beneficial on so many levels," she says.





Faculty, students and staff in Epidemiology have come to know communications coordinator Elaine Meyer primarily through her work on Two by Two, our bimonthly newsletter. If Elaine hasn't interviewed you, or featured your work in one of her articles, chances are you have run into her at one of our numerous Department events, snapping photos and engaging with participants.

Elaine invested serious time and thought in considering career options before she decided to pursue communications. She chose to get a degree in history at Northwestern University, winning top honors for her senior thesis. After college, she interned for a summer at the US Appellate Court and then worked for two years as a paralegal at the Federal Trade Commission. She loved living in Washington, DC, and learning about how policy was made, but surrounded by lawyers and would-be lawyers, she came to realize that she was not destined to be one herself.

She chose to go into journalism because she wanted a career that would allow her to learn constantly and be in touch with what was happening in the world. She earned a master's degree at Columbia's School of Journalism, completed a prestigious Carnegie-Knight News 21 fellowship reporting on changing education demographics in America, and then accepted a job reporting corporate legal news. That position helped her see that she wanted opportunities to write long-form journalism instead of the multiple short articles she was required to churn out every day. This sentiment led her to follow up on the Department of Epidemiology's posting on the School of Journalism website for a communications coordinator with exceptional writing skills. She was far and away the best candidate for the position.

Elaine's supervisor Barbara Aaron calls her, "immensely hardworking and productive, with a sharp eye for critiquing process. She is a supercollider of energy and ideas."

Elaine brings together her writing talent, investigative skills, logistical acumen, and social media savvy to generate the communications face of Epidemiology. A year and half after her hire date, Elaine is the lead writer and coordinator of the Two by Two bimonthly newsletter and is also the producer of our social media, posting and tweeting several times a day. She demonstrated impressive project coordination skills in her tireless work on the website and registration functions of EPIC 2011, and continues to be a guiding force on EPIC 2012, scheduled to open June 4 at double its original size.

EPIC Co-Director Dr. Gina Lovasi says, "Elaine, who is always articulate and professional, has been a pleasure to work with because she is so adept at juggling the multiple demands on her time and does it all with a keen intelligence, humor, and style."

Elaine's hunger for learning is serving the Department well as she has moved into writing more in-depth articles, such as the Lines of Inquiry in Two by Two, which requires a strong grasp of the scientific and historical context of the story. As she conducts the background research and interviews for these articles, Elaine's public health expertise continues to grow. Barbara Aaron notes that, "Elaine's development as a communications leader seems to be taking place in parallel with the Department's growth in the same dimension. As the Department pursues ever more sophisticated communications endeavors, Elaine is a key force in bringing them to fruition."

"This is the only place I've ever worked where the focus is entirely on moving forward, on what we *can* do, and not what we can't," says Elaine. "It has forced me to think about all the new directions that public health communication can take."



APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

STAFF

Mirtha delValle was promoted to Senior Cluster Administrator in the infectious disease and lifecourse epidemiology clusters.

DiLenny Roca-Dominguez was promoted to Senior Cluster Administrator in the epidemiology innovation and social epidemiology clusters.



The Anna C. Gelman Award for Excellence in Epidemiology is awarded to students in the Department for high academic distinction and the potential for significant contributions in the field of public health.

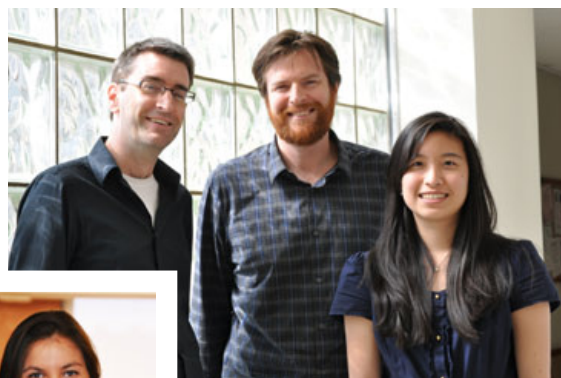
Anna Gelman was one of a small and highly select group of women to graduate in 1934 with an MPH from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Professor Gelman distinguished herself as a faculty member in our Department, as an epidemiologist, and as a teacher of several thousand students over her career.

This year, **Sage Farrar, Steve Mooney, Stephanie Shiau, Russell McBride, and Heba Tawfik** received the Anna C. Gelman Award.

Sage Farrar, a graduating MPH student, was born in Mystic, Connecticut and did her undergraduate work at Johns Hopkins University as a pre-med studying Spanish, Bioethics, and Latin American Studies. She did her practicum at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center recruiting for the Glioma International Case-Control Study. There she worked with an alumni of the Department, Dr. Sarah Olson, on quantitative analysis of estrogen, diet, and endometrial cancer. Her thesis was entitled "Primary and secondary infertility as a risk factor for endometrial cancer."

Steve Mooney, a graduating MS student, grew up in Oakland, California, and earned his BS in Computer Science from Yale in 1998. After 11 years of work in the software industry, he decided to use his computer skills to change the course of his career and go into epidemiology. He did his practicum with Drs. Al Neugut and Andrew Rundle. He will begin a PhD in Epidemiology in the Department this fall, focusing on cancer outcomes research and has been awarded a fellowship on the Cancer Training Grant.

Stephanie Shiau, a graduating MPH student, has focused on studying antiretroviral medications and metabolic disorders in patients with HIV. During her degree, she also worked as a research assistant at the Sergievsky Center. According to Dr. Louise Kuhn, who nominated Ms. Shiau, "Stephanie has demonstrated a capacity to grasp important scientific questions and to approach data analysis in a methodological and thoughtful manner. Her remarkable intellectual curiosity coupled with an outstanding work ethic has allowed her to very quickly deepen her understanding in the area of antiretroviral medications and metabolic disorders especially in the study of those of potential contribution to long-term complications in children with HIV." Ms. Shiau will begin a PhD in Epidemiology this fall and has received a Departmental Priority Scholarship.



TOP: STEVE MOONEY, RUSSELL MCBRIDE, AND STEPHANIE SHIAU

LEFT: SAGE FARRAR

Russell McBride, a graduating PhD student, has focused his research on two critical issues in prostate cancer: 1) the role of obesity and 2) the identification and adjustment for selection bias that occurs in epidemiologic studies of prostate cancer treatment. Dr. McBride was the recipient several years ago of a Clinical and Translational Science Awards TRANSFORM fellowship which allowed him to engage in pathologic review of prostate specimens and image analysis protocols. Dr. McBride has accepted a faculty position at The Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. He is married to Psychiatry faculty member Dr. Christiane Duarte, who he met when they were in students at Mailman, and they have a daughter Gabby.

Heba Tawfik, a graduating PhD student, has been dedicated to the field of Public Health since she received her medical degree in Egypt. She successfully defended her dissertation in the fall of 2011, which focused on examining the association between prenatal smoke exposure and birth weight on the timing of menopause. Her sponsor Dr. Mary Beth Terry says of Dr. Tawfik "Her dedication, intelligence and commitment to her family, community and public health illustrate beautifully the values held by Anna Gelman."



The **Sydney Kark Award in Epidemiology** is given to students in the Department who are committed to research in global health.

Sydney Kark coined the term community-oriented primary health care to describe his work in South Africa and innovated the cornerstone concepts of community-oriented primary health care, including an emphasis on applied research and a team approach to public health problems.

This year, **Rebecca Hanna, Sarah Ellwood, and Vera Frajzyngier** received the Sydney Kark Award.

Rebecca Hanna, a graduating MPH global health track student, grew up in Indonesia and Hong Kong, where she was first exposed to the ramifications of infectious diseases, including observing firsthand the social effects of the SARS pandemic. After graduating with a BA from Wellesley College in 2008, she came to Mailman and did her six month practicum at the Research Triangle Institute International based in Jakarta, Indonesia. There she worked on a USAID-funded project to scale up HIV/AIDS interventions for at-risk populations across Indonesia, helping to develop a national survey to measure stigma and discrimination against those with HIV. Ms. Hanna is the recipient of an Allan Rosenfield Fellowship in Health Policy and Public Health at the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Sarah Ellwood, a graduating MPH student, did her undergraduate work at the College of William & Mary with a major in Economics. During her senior year she worked at the World Harvest Mission in western Uganda, which led her to pursue a career in public health. She returned to northern Uganda in the Summer of 2011 to work at the Child Protection in Crisis Learning Network. There she trained researchers and supervised systems mapping research with the goal of making recommendations on research tools and data collection. Her master's thesis was entitled "Relative effectiveness of different insecticides used for indoor residual spraying in the East Shoa region of Ethiopia."



TOP: REBECCA HANNA

RIGHT: SARAH ELWOOD (LEFT)
WITH A FRIEND

LEFT: VERA FRAJZYNGIER

Vera Frajzyngier, a graduating PhD student, did her undergraduate work at McGill University in anthropology. She earned an MPH at Mailman in sociomedical sciences before going on to the doctorate. Through her work at the global reproductive health organization Engender Health, Dr. Frajzyngier designed, implemented, and coordinated a large data set, singled-handedly cleaned the data, and conducted a complex data analysis. "Most doctoral students link with a faculty member's research to conduct secondary analysis with data already collected," says Dr. Frajzyngier's dissertation sponsor Dr. Elaine Larson. "Vera however is responsible for an entire project from start to finish." The project characterized the problem of urinary fistula and its repair prognosis on more than 1,300 women in Uganda, Guinea, Niger, Nigeria, and Bangladesh. Dr. Frajzyngier is currently on contract with Pfizer as an epidemiology lead, designing and implementing strategies to examine pharmaceutical product safety.



The **William Farr Award in Epidemiology** is given to students in the Department who have shown commitment to understanding or addressing the causes of social inequalities in health.

William Farr was a leading British epidemiologist who was a pioneer in the field of medical statistics. He developed the first national vital statistics system and assured its use as a surveillance instrument and in the conduct of epidemiologic studies.

The three recipients of this year's William Farr Award are **Patrick Dawson, Jillian Knorr, and Samantha Garbers.**

Patrick Dawson, a graduating MPH student, earned his BA in biological sciences from Northwestern University. He spent two years as an Epi practicum program assistant to Dr. Joyce. Mr. Dawson did his practicum as an Epi Scholar in the Bureau of Tuberculosis Control at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and has a long-standing interest in infectious disease. In addition, he was an elected member of the student government and the founder and facilitator of the Epidemiology Journal Club, as well as a dedicated community volunteer. According to his advisor Dr. Mary Ann Chiasson, "Not only is Patrick an outstanding student, but he has consistently demonstrated impressive leadership skills throughout his academic training."

Jillian Knorr, a graduating MPH student, earned a BS from George Washington University in public health. She spent two years at University of Pennsylvania as a research coordinator for a case-control, survival and family-based genetic study of melanoma with Dr. Peter Kanetsky, an alumnus of the Epidemiology PhD program. She did her practicum at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in the Bureau of Communicable Diseases, working on surveillance of reported salmonellosis infections, collecting data and conducting in-depth interviews. After graduation she will do a 2-year Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Applied Epidemiology fellowship at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Bureau of TB Control.



TOP: JILLIAN KNORR AND SAMANTHA GARBERS

BOTTOM: WILLIAM FARR AWARD WINNERS WITH DR. SANDRO GALEA: PATRICK DAWSON, JILLIAN KNORR, AND SAMANTHA GARBERS

Samantha Garbers, a graduating PhD student, has also earned an MPA from NYU's Wagner School of Public Service. Samantha has worked at Public Health Solutions since 2000 under the supervision of Dr. Mary Ann Chiasson, who was also her dissertation sponsor. At Public Health Solutions she directed studies on breast and cervical cancer screening knowledge, attitudes, and practices among African American and Latina women. Since 2008 Dr. Garbers has served as the principal investigator of a randomized controlled trial that demonstrated the efficacy of a novel computerized counseling tool she designed to improve contraceptive method choice. She has 20 first authored publications and 27 presentations of her research findings at scientific meetings. "Samantha has already made important contributions to women's health and is poised to develop as a national leader in the field," says Dr. Chiasson.

LINES OF INQUIRY

LINES OF INQUIRY IS A REGULAR SERIES IN TWO BY TWO. LINES OF INQUIRY TACKLES TIMELY QUESTIONS IN PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTING OUR FACULTY RESEARCH AND PROVIDING PERSPECTIVE ON OFTEN CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS.

How teen driving became safer



In the 1960s and 1970s, more teenagers than ever before were dying every year in the United States from car accidents. The age 15-19 demographic flooded the roads, a result of a federally-supported drivers' education initiative and increased leisure time. Accident rates climbed—hitting their peak in 1969.¹ By 1975, motor vehicle collisions accounted for 38 percent of all deaths of 15-19-year-olds.²

Those statistics were experienced at a personal level every time an American town woke up to news of a crash after prom or a football game. The car's centrality for teenagers—both as a vehicle for freedom and for death—was reflected in the popular culture of the time, from songs like "Leader of the Pack" and "Tell Laura I Love Her" which rhapsodized about car wrecks, to the iconic 1973 road film *American Graffiti*.

Despite the harrowing statistics and images, very little was done to regulate teen driving. It was viewed as parents' responsibility—not government's—to ensure their kids were safe on the road.

Families of deceased children often reacted with "grim acceptance," says Dr. Jeffrey Runge, the former head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.³

"It was amazing how many people would say, 'I guess it was just his time,'" Runge told *USA Today* in 2005.

The attitude was "we've kind of accepted that they're going to go through this process and hopefully survive," says Dr. C. Raymond Bingham, a professor of psychiatry, medicine, and health and behavior at the University of Michigan who studies teen transportation injuries.

Teen driving did not always have a dangerous reputation. In fact, the elderly were the most high-risk age group for car accidents in the early history of American mass driving. The adolescent collision

1 Li G, Shahpar C, Grabowski JG, Baker SP. "Secular trends of motor vehicle mortality in the United States, 1910-1994." *Accid Anal Prev.* 2001; 33(3): 423-32.

2 Robertson LS. "Patterns of Teenaged Driver Involvement in Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes: Implications for Policy Choice." *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law.* 1981; 6(2). 304.

3 O'Donnell J. "Deadly teen auto crashes show a pattern." *USA Today.* 1 March 2005. Retrieved from: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-02-28-teen-drive-cover-usat_x.htm



rate began to rise during the 1950s, when families could afford one or even two cars and teenagers had more leisure time to take the wheels for a spin. Compared to other nations, the US made it easy to get a drivers' license at a younger age—typically 16 but in some rural states as young as 14. Most states set their licensing ages at the early half of the twentieth century, basing it not on safety concerns but rather to accommodate for occupational demands.⁴

Compounding the problem, the US Department of Transportation began subsidizing drivers' education programs in high school with a well-meaning goal: to teach safety. However, the program ultimately had the opposite effect, making it easier for teens to obtain drivers' licenses, which caused the collision rate to shoot up.⁴

By the early 1960s, the mortality rate for drivers ages 15-19 had surpassed that of the elderly.¹ Policymakers at the state-level reacted by going after the drinking age, which had been lowered to 18 during the Vietnam-era.⁵ By the early 1980s, all states had raised the drinking age back to 21.

4 Mayhew DR, Fields M, and Simpson HM. "Why 16?" Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. August 2000. Retrieved from: http://iihs.org/research/paper_pdfs/mf_1261.pdf. Also: "The increase in teenage deaths in the 1960s and early 1970s resulted at least partly from a public policy specifically intended to reduce the crash involvement of teenaged drivers. The growth in publicly-financed high school driver education greatly increased the number of sixteen to seventeen-year-olds licensed, without reducing the number of crashes per licensed driver. The net result was more crashes." Robertson LS. "Patterns of Teenaged Driver Involvement in Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes: Implications for Policy Choice." *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law*. 1981; 6[2]. 304.

5 O'Malley PM, Wagenaar AC. "Effects of minimum drinking age laws on alcohol use, related behaviors and traffic crash involvement among American youth: 1976-1987." *J Stud Alcohol*. 1991; 52 (5): 478-91.

However, states did not adjust their driving age, even as Congress took other measures to address traffic accidents during the 1970s and the 1980s, such as passing legislation to increase vehicle safety, improving roadway engineering, and lowering speed limits.

"There's clear evidence looking at the history that for quite awhile motor vehicle fatalities were seen as a transportation problem. They weren't seen as a public health problem or a medical problem," says Dr. Bingham.

Finally in the late 1980s and early 1990s new evidence emerged from Canada and New Zealand indicating that pilot programs mandating graduated driving privileges for teenagers were linked to decreases in vehicular crash rates.

Such programs had been proposed in the US in the 1970s but barely advanced. By the 1990s, the sentiment had changed. Research on the adolescent brain showed that the region that regulates risk-taking behavior does not fully develop until well into one's 20s—which upended the presumption that teens might have quicker reaction times.⁶ The immediate period after teens get their license was shown to be a particularly dangerous time, with risk of crash almost twice as high as five months later.⁷

To address those risks, some US states began to adopt graduated drivers' license policies, which require young drivers to get licensed

6 Williamson E. "Brain Immaturity Could Explain Teen Crash Rate." *Washington Post*. 1 February 2005. Retrieved from: <http://washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A52687-2005Jan31.html>

7 Brody JE. "For Teenagers, the Car Is the Danger Zone." *The New York Times*. 6 February 2007. Retrieved from: <http://nytimes.com/2007/02/06/health/06brody.html>

“THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE WHO NEED CONVINCING THAT [TEEN DRIVING] IS A HEALTH PROBLEM. ANY OF US WHO WORK IN PUBLIC HEALTH THINK IT’S A NO BRAINER”

in three stages and sometimes set curfews and limits on the number of passengers. Full driving privileges are not granted until the third stage.

Pioneering research on distracted teen driving by Dr. Guohua Li, the M. Finster Professor of anesthesiological sciences and epidemiology (in anesthesiology) at Columbia and a renowned injury epidemiologist, demonstrated just how effective the laws had been in states that had passed them. He and colleagues at Johns Hopkins University found in 2001 that 16- or 17-year-old drivers' risk of a fatal crash increased significantly based on the number of passengers riding with them.⁸

That finding helped to usher in the passage of graduated drivers' licenses laws in many more states—by the mid-2000s, all states had some kind of legislation on their books. At the same time, the annual number of fatally injured 16- and 17-year-old drivers in the US decreased by about 50%, from about 2000 deaths per year to 1000 deaths per year.⁹

The most comprehensive study of the programs to date, by Dr. Li and his colleagues in 2006, has confirmed that graduated drivers' license laws are associated with a 20% drop in 16-year-olds' rates of involvement in fatal crashes.¹⁰ Over the past decade, child and teen deaths from motor vehicle crashes declined 41%, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.¹¹

Despite the many successes, epidemiologists emphasize that driving is still the number one cause of death for teenagers, with about 1,500 teens dying each year and more suffering injuries and mental trauma as a result.

“There are still people who need convincing that [teen driving] is a health problem. Any of us who work in public health think it's a no brainer,” says Dr. Jean Shope, a research professor in the Young Driver Behavior and Injury Prevention Group at University of Michigan.

A recently-released study by the AAA Foundation for Traffic

Safety found that a 16- or 17- year-old driver's risk of dying in a crash increases with each additional young passenger in the vehicle bolstering Dr. Li's 2001 findings.¹²

Today's society of multi-tasking, distracted driving represents one of the biggest risks to teens. Dr. Li says regulations must be passed to prevent fatalities, such as banning use of a cell phone and limiting passengers. Driving while under the influence of alcohol—and increasingly, marijuana, has also become a problem, he says.

Not everyone is in favor of stricter regulations.

Says Dr. Bingham: “I was quite involved in a recent effort here in Michigan to get a stronger graduated drivers' licenses law passed, and it was astounding to me when I testified before the house of representatives for the state that so many of them were so concerned that these teens might be inconvenienced. I just wanted to say, ‘you know death is kind of inconvenient guys.’”

Drs. Bingham, Li, Shope, and others argue that if this nation is serious about stemming auto accidents among teenagers stricter measures must be implemented, even if it is a tough pill to swallow in a nation where a driver's license is a passport to freedom.

“The bottom line is, graduated driver licensing has been a wonderful success story,” said J. Peter Kissinger, president and chief executive of the AAA Foundation. “It's probably the most significant countermeasure put in place, but there is still a lot of work to be done.”¹²

8 Chen LH, Baker SP, Braver ER, Li G. Carrying passengers as a risk factor for crashes fatal to 16- and 17-year-old drivers. *JAMA*. 2000; 283(12):1578-82.

9 McCartt AT, Teoh ER. Strengthening driver licensing systems for teenaged drivers. *JAMA*. 2011; 306(10): 1142-3. Retrieved from: <http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/306/10/1142.full.pdf+html> ; McCartt AT, Teoh ER, Fields M, Braitman KA, and Helling LA. “Graduated Licensing Laws and Fatal Crashes of Teenage Drivers: A National Study.” For the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. *Traffic Injury Prevention*, 11: 240–248. 2010.

10 Chen LH, Baker SP, Li G. Graduated driver licensing programs and fatal crashes of 16-year-old drivers: a national evaluation. *Pediatrics*. 2006;118(1):56-62.

11 Gilchrist J, Ballesteros M, and Parker E. (2012) “Vital Signs: Unintentional Injury Deaths among Persons Aged 0–19 Years—United States, 2000–2009.” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*. Vol 61, issue 15. Retrieved from: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6115a5.htm?s_cid=mm6115a5_w

12 Mohn T. “Teenage Driver Study Reconfirms Link Between Young Passengers and Chances of a Fatal Crash.” *The New York Times*. 8 May 2012. Retrieved from: <http://wheels.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/05/08/study-reconfirms-link-between-number-of-teenagers-in-a-car-and-likelihood-of-crashes/?src=me&ref=automobiles>



PARTNER PROFILES FEATURES SOME OF THE MANY INNOVATIVE CENTERS ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY WITH WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY COLLABORATES.

Putting nutrition at the center of public health

The Institute of Human Nutrition and the Department of Epidemiology

Nutrition has long been recognized as important to health and longevity, but only recently have people begun to realize that nutrition policy is foundational to some of the most significant public health challenges of the twenty-first century, like cardiovascular disease, reproductive health, water and food shortages, malnourishment, and obesity.

This is the message of the Institute of Human Nutrition (IHN) at Columbia University, a world-renowned center of scientific and translational research on nutrition and human health.

The IHN is uniquely regarded both for its scientific rigor in the area of molecular biology and nutrition and for its emphasis on using its research to further public health.

Fundamental to its mission are the center's top-ranked training programs at the master's, doctoral, and postdoctoral levels. This includes a National Institutes of Health-funded Interdisciplinary Training in Nutritional and Population Health Sciences program which involves Epidemiology faculty, including co-director Dr. Ezra Susser (with Dr. Debra Wolgemuth from IHN), and Drs. Pam Factor-Litvak, Sandro Galea, L.H. Lumey, and Mary Beth Terry.

Coming full circle

Established in 1955, the IHN's focus was initially directed toward global malnutrition. Many students came from abroad to access lab science training that was not available in their home countries. In the 1970s, the Institute expanded its focus to include physiology and brain development, and in the 1980s to include molecular-based nutrition.



Today the Institute has come full circle, with a renewed emphasis on encouraging struggling nations to make an investment in nutrition training and lab infrastructure. These collaborations stem from a conviction of the IHN's director, Dr. Richard Deckelbaum, that a nation's public health improves when it puts more money into science. Currently, a lack of investment in science has hampered many nations. For instance, researchers abroad feel they have to send samples to North America for analysis because they do not have the proper local facilities or training.

"We want those countries to analyze their own samples. We don't want samples to sit here in US freezers," Dr. Deckelbaum says.

A recent paper he lead authored on the subject details the problem: "Basic science training for students from the South often occurs in laboratories in the North where human resources and laboratory infrastructure and finances are strong. Well-trained students then return to faculty positions in their home countries with little physical infrastructure, low salaries, little research financing, and very large teaching burdens. Facing this situation, many choose either not to return to their countries of origin, or emigrate soon after their return to developed countries."¹

To tackle this problem, the IHN is committed to "global dissemination of its nutrition education and intervention programs."

Trainees come from many countries such as India, Korea, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, China, Philippines, Poland, Serbia, and Thailand to acquire concrete interdisciplinary skills in molecular nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, cell biology, nutritional epidemiology and public health. Meanwhile, training collaborations have been

¹ Deckelbaum RJ, Ntambi JM, Wolgemuth DJ. Basic Science Research and Education: A Priority for Training and Capacity Building in Developing Countries. *Infect Dis Clin N Am* 25 (2011): 669-676.

PARTNER PROFILES



LEFT: DR. RICHARD J. DECKELBAUM, WITH SON DR. DAN DECKELBAUM, RECEIVES THE GLOBAL HEALTH EDUCATION CONSORTIUM'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD.

RIGHT: DR. DECKELBAUM, DURING HIS TIME AS CHAIR OF THE MARCH OF DIMES TASK FORCE ON "NUTRITION TODAY MATTERS TOMORROW", DELIVERING THE TASK FORCE'S REPORT TO TWO COLLEAGUES IN WESTERN KENYA.



established with universities in Chile, China, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Israel, and Thailand, among other locations.

A major priority is to enable trainees to return to their home countries able to advance nutrition as a health science and work toward building a public health infrastructure that promotes nutrition. Today the IHN has over 1,200 alumni in 46 countries who work in basic science and medical research, medicine, dentistry, public health, the pharmaceutical industry, the food industry, non-profit organizations, and journalism.

From Montreal to Zambia to Columbia

Dr. Deckelbaum's focus on establishing global connections and integrating science, medicine, and public health is emblematic of his own history and that of the Institute, which has combined the practice of medicine with scientific research and public health work.

As a medical student in the 1960s, Dr. Deckelbaum sought out opportunities to work in settings with meager health resources. During summer breaks from McGill University's medical school, he did rotations in Newfoundland and in Greece.

After graduation, Dr. Deckelbaum put a planned move to Zambia on hold in order to follow a woman he met at Montreal's 1967 World's Fair to Jerusalem. They married and eventually did move to the Zambian countryside to work at clinics near the border of Malawi, teaching villagers about health, nutrition, and agriculture.

In the 1970s, Dr. Deckelbaum helped to establish the first children's hospital in Ramallah in the West Bank. He moved back with his family to Montreal conducting gastroenterology nutrition and biophysics research, spent 10 years in Jerusalem working on health and nutrition with Israelis and Palestinians, and then moved to Columbia in 1986.

One of his proudest achievements is founding the Columbia University-Ben-Gurion University partnership at the Medical School for International Health in the Negev, Israel 15 years ago.

The school is representative of Dr. Deckelbaum's commitment to combining rigorous science with the advancement of public health. Unusual for medical schools, its curriculum integrates population health, community issues, and global concerns into the medical education.

The future of nutrition

Working in resource-poor settings has not moderated Dr. Deckelbaum's idealism. When asked what his goals are for IHN, he produces a slide that contains an image of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Adopted by the UN in 1948 as the first such document of its kind, the declaration proclaims that all humans have the right to "a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services."

"It has been more than 60 years, and we aren't anywhere near there yet," says Dr. Deckelbaum. He is not deterred. Today, he contributes significant time traveling to countries where medical training and investment in science is lacking.

He and fellow Institute colleagues advise countries on promoting vitamin and mineral supplementation in their populations' diets, micronutrient malnourishment being significantly associated with other health problems, especially in women and children.

"The window of opportunity for improving nutrition is small—from before pregnancy through the first two years of life," says Dr. Deckelbaum.

With the emerging worldwide epidemic of obesity, he helps plan approaches to the "double burden" of under- and over-nutrition.

Many of these efforts have paid off. In the West Bank, he helped in analyzing the status of school nutrition. After multiple micronutrient flour fortification efforts there was a 60% decrease in anemia rates.

In Jordan, he is working with the Columbia University Middle East Research Center to improve the baseline quality of agricultural products that go into school meals.

Recently the IHN sponsored a United Nations Summit side-meeting on the "double burden." Other recent IHN meetings have focused on HIV and Nutrition and integrating agriculture, ecology, and nutrition for optimal health outcomes.

"Nutrition is a real partner to so many fields," says Dr. Deckelbaum. "Its importance is being appreciated as a critical part of inter-sectoral programming."



Changing face of AIDS highlighted in lectures

Two lectures on AIDS by faculty members Drs. Salim Abdool Karim and Wafaa El-Sadr highlighted just how much the landscape has changed since the virus was first identified.

Dr. El-Sadr, professor of medicine and epidemiology and director of ICAP, gave Columbia's University Lecture on April 5, a semiannual address given by an outstanding member of the faculty to celebrate his or her work and academic achievements.

Dr. Abdool Karim, professor of clinical epidemiology and head of CAPRISA, gave the Alan Berkman Memorial Lecture as part of the Department of Epidemiology's CUEGR series. The lecture honors Dr. Berkman, who devoted his life to AIDS research and activism and was a professor, acting chair, and vice chair of the Department.

Both Drs. El-Sadr and Abdool Karim have been involved with AIDS research and treatment since the early days of the virus.

As a young infectious disease specialist in Cleveland Dr. El-Sadr learned from a Center for Disease Control and Prevention's report of a very rare pneumonia that had infected five gay men in Los Angeles.

"I thought at the time with our knowledge of infectious disease, we'd figure this outbreak pretty quickly, but this did not stop," she said.

That did not happen. As HIV infections reached outbreak proportions, Dr. El-Sadr moved to one of the epicenters of the crisis when she was appointed to the faculty of New York's Harlem Hospital. There she saw that the extent of the disease went far beyond gay men.

"Hundreds of thousands of young people came to the hospital suffering with AIDS: babies, children, adults. We couldn't cope with the load of the patients," she said. Absent a cure, she and her colleagues were forced to change their approach to medical care. They took a family focus, caring not only for the AIDS patient but for their families.

Dr. El-Sadr would later enter the Department of Epidemiology's master's in science program in 1987, the same year as Dr. Abdool Karim, who came as a physician from South Africa.

He knew nothing about AIDS, the virus having not yet reached South Africa—which today has 16% of the world's HIV infections.

"I'd never studied AIDS when I was in medical school. There was no such thing," he said.

When he returned home in the early 1990s with his wife Dr. Quarraisha Abdool Karim after both earned Columbia degrees, that had all changed. Drawing on their experience in New York, the Abdool Karims set out to conduct the first set of studies of HIV incidence in South Africa. What they found surprised them: women—not gay men—bore the disproportionate burden of AIDS, often becoming infected in their teen years.

The Abdool Karims went on to dedicate their careers and their lives to preventing HIV in women in Sub-Saharan countries, where condom use and monogamy are often not a reality.

Dr. El-Sadr meanwhile in 2002 brought her experience treating



TOP: DR. ZENA STEIN, DR. SALIM ABDOOL KARIM, DR. ALAN BERKMAN'S DAUGHTER SARAH ZOELLER BERKMAN, DR. BERKMAN'S WIFE BARBARA ZOELLER, AND DR. MERVYN SUSSER AT THE ALAN BERKMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

RIGHT: DR. WAFAA EL-SADR DELIVERS THE UNIVERSITY LECTURE



families in New York to the MTCT-Plus Initiative, one of the first HIV/AIDS care and treatment programs which focused both on preventing mother to child transmission of the disease, as well as on the health of infected women and their families.

The challenges posed by HIV have changed since Dr. El-Sadr and Dr. Abdool Karim were master's students, when there was no treatment in sight and government officials—right up to the President of the United States—ignored the illness.

Today in the US, the haunting images of full-blown AIDS from the 1980s and 1990s are part of the past. Antiretrovirals have allowed people to live their lives with HIV.

Abroad, large-scale AIDS treatment and prevention programs such as ICAP have brought new hope to many populations, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, which people once wrote off. Clinical trials over the last two years, such as the Abdool Karims' landmark CAPRISA 004 study have found that antiretrovirals can prevent sexual transmission of HIV.

Challenges remain. Funding from major sources like the Global Fund and PEPFAR has decreased or stagnated, and research priorities compete against each other.

Nonetheless, both Drs. El-Sadr and Abdool Karim are optimistic, having lived through the despair of the epidemic in its early days.

Says Dr. Abdool Karim: "Few people would imagine that we would be talking about the real possibility of an AIDS free population, but today we have a global target to reach zero new infections."



Modeling the future

Complex systems group hosts panel on innovative approaches to public health interventions

The goal of epidemiology is to describe health patterns happening across a population and to understand the causal relationships between exposure and arising disease. However, epidemiologists are often confronted with difficulties in using causal relationships observed in the past to predict how public health interventions applied in the future might play out.

On May 4, researchers and trainees gathered at the Systems Perspectives in Complex Health™ panel to discuss how certain approaches may help penetrate the hierarchy and feedback loops that plague etiologic investigations.

It was the first such event sponsored by the Complex Systems Approaches in Population Health (CSAPH) student group. Complex systems approaches utilize theory and mathematical models that make it possible to simulate hypothetical situations in complex, dynamic environments and reproduce outcomes of interventions.

“Good models are largely invisible... because they have become part of the fabric of our work and lives,” said panelist Dr. Nathaniel Hupert, a professor of public health and medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College and a contractor for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Hupert cited the internet and air traffic control as examples of invisible systems that inform policy.

“We try to throw information into this very complex mess, and we wind up with an image that tells us what different policy options might do,” Dr. Hupert added.

Presenting a colorful animated map of the United States, Dr. Hupert showed how disease control officials have modeled the millions of different ways flu would move across the country to help anticipate an outbreak. He also described how modeling had been used shortly after September 11 to conceive of how quickly the city of New York could distribute anthrax antibiotic pills to citizens in the event of a terrorist attack.

Panelist Dr. Van-Anh Truong, an assistant professor of engineering at Columbia, described how discrete queuing modeling has been used to better design surgical operation schedules in hospitals, and Dr. Mark Orr, associate research scientist in epidemiology at Columbia, described an agent-based approach used to compare different to obesity policies.

Given the rich and complex nature of such models, the complex systems approach requires reams of data—or more accurately,



PANELISTS DRs. NATHANIEL HUPERT, VAN-ANH TRUONG, NATHANIEL OSGOOD, AND MARK ORR.



terabytes of data. That was the message of Dr. Nathaniel Osgood, an associate professor of computer science, community health and epidemiology, and bioengineering at the University of Saskatchewan, who described how digital monitoring systems have greatly expanded the type of data that can be collected using such technology as wifi, Bluetooth, and digital networks taking advantage of ubiquitous mobile platforms such as smart phones.

The event was moderated by Dr. Claire Wang, an assistant professor in health policy and management at Mailman, who uses mathematical models in her own decision research on obesity and cardiovascular disease prevention.

CSAPH co-leader Jorge Luna noted the strong interdisciplinary connections that the group is forging across such areas as epidemiology, health policy and management, population and family health, and engineering.

“No single discipline has domain over the science of complexity, but each has made significant advances in theory and its methodological application. Interdisciplinary events such as this help us share our lessons learned, and today focus on advancing health research and interventions,” said Mr. Luna, who also noted that CSAPH has many similar events in planning stages for the upcoming academic year.

CSAPH encourages trainees at all levels to come to their meetings, visit their website at csapopulationhealth.blogspot.com, and sign up to receive emails about future events. For more information and to join the email list, please send an email to Mr. Luna (jl2708@columbia.edu) or co-leader Ms. Carolyn Herzig (cch2115@columbia.edu).

Doctoral Students Who Defended Their Dissertation in Academic Year 2011-2012

| NAME | SPONSOR | GRADUATION DATE | DISSERTATION TITLE |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---|
| Dr. Vera Frajzyngier | Dr. Elaine Larson | October 2011 | Toward a better understanding of urinary fistula repair prognosis: Results from a multi-country prospective cohort study |
| Dr. Niki Palmetto | Dr. Bruce Link | October 2011 | How unreliable are adult-reported suicide attempts? An examination of correlates and underlying causal mechanisms of discordant reporting over time |
| Dr. Monika Pogorzelska | Dr. Elaine Larson | October 2011 | Institutional and patient-level predictors of multi-drug resistant healthcare-associated infections |
| Dr. Hsu (Kevin) Chien-Chin | Dr. W. Ian Lipkin | February 2012 | Epidemiological features of central nervous system (CNS) infections in Taiwan and molecular investigation of CNS infections of unknown etiology |
| Dr. Hebatullah Tawfik | Dr. Mary Beth Terry | February 2012 | Intrauterine, early life and midlife factors associated with the timing of the menopausal transition and natural menopause |
| Dr. Samantha Garbers | Dr. Mary Ann Chiasson | May 2012 | Improving contraceptive method choice and use with a computer-based contraceptive assessment module |
| Dr. Steven Markowitz | Dr. Alfredo Morabia | May 2012 | Understanding the effects of asbestos and smoking on lung cancer risk: The roles of asbestosis and smoking cessation |
| Dr. Russell McBride | Dr. Andrew Rundle | May 2012 | Obesity and aggressive prostate cancer: Bias and biomarkers |

Master's Theses for 2012

| NAME | THESIS TITLE | READER 1 | READER 2 |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Faraj Al Qaraghuli | Is caregiving associated with blood pressure control in patients hospitalized with cardiovascular disease? | Dr. Ryan Demmer | Dr. Lori Mosca |
| Lola Arakaki | Multi-county analysis of rates of meningococcal disease and community factors | Dr. Stephen Morse | Dr. Don Weiss |
| Keith Atchison | A novel assessment of restaurant inspection scores and grades for salmonella serotype enteritidis infections in New York City | Dr. Anne Paxton | Dr. Stanley Wang |
| Mariam Azam | The association of fatalism with multiple partnering in a 2009-2010 cohort of adults at HIV high risk in South Africa | Dr. Mary Latka | Dr. Susie Hoffman |
| Aileen Baecker | Do diets compliant with the USDA's dietary guidelines for Americans predict cardiometabolic risk factors? | Dr. Ryan Demmer | Dr. Andrew Rundle |
| Sewit Bereket | Examining the association between mental illness and social risk factors among illicit drug users in New York City | Dr. Crystal Fuller | Dr. Ping Wu |
| Noelle Bessette | The effects of infancy on likelihood of exposures and severity of symptoms among salmonellosis cases reported to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene from 2009 to 2011 | Dr. Stephen Morse | Dr. Sharon Balter |
| Krystyn Bigback | Depression and intimate partner violence (IPV) perpetration in an American Indian / Alaska Native (AI/AN) national sample | Dr. Charles DiMaggio | Dr. Guohua Li |
| Jennifer Brite | Maternal obesity and risk of congenital heart defects | Dr. Andrew Rundle | Dr. Virginia Rauh |
| Joshua Brooks | A cross-sectional analysis of the association between socioeconomic status and childhood obesity in South Korean youth | Dr. Andrew Rundle | Dr. Jeanine Genkinger |
| Pedro Botti Carneiro | The association between ART and sexual behavior changes | Dr. Lisa Bates | Dr. Katherine Keyes |
| Elektra Carras-Terzian | Identifying role of sex exchange and sexual risk behavior in non-injection substance-using HIV- negative women | Dr. Beryl Koblin | Dr. Scott Hammer |
| Terusha Chetty | Postpartum weight changes through 24 months in HIV-infected and uninfected women in the Vertical Transmission Study in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa | Dr. Rosalind Carter | Dr. Marie-Louise Newell |
| Sarah Clock | Risk factors for colonization with antimicrobial-resistant organisms during hospitalization in the neonatal intensive care unit | Dr. Elaine Larson | Dr. Lisa Saiman |
| Evette Cordoba | Determinants of patient satisfaction in antenatal healthcare services in Sudan, secondary data analysis | Dr. Anne Paxton | Dr. Aravind Pillai |
| Patrick Dawson | Epidemiology of tuberculosis among New Yorkers living in public housing 2001-2009 | Dr. Mary Ann Chiasson | Dr. Shama Ahuja |
| Eileen DeMicco | Test anxiety and problematic/excessive internet use among high school students in China | Dr. Ping Wu | Dr. Jamie Geier |
| Daniel DiGiacomo | Prevalence of celiac disease and gluten-free diet in the United States: Preliminary results from NHANES 2009-2010 | Dr. Ryan Demmer | Dr. Christina Tennyson |
| Hoda Elmasry | Prenatal tobacco exposure and depressive symptoms in adult female offspring | Dr. Parisa Tehranifar | Dr. Mary Beth Terry |
| Xiaozhou Fan | Factors associated with HIV testing among Kenya young people | Dr. Batya Elul | Dr. Yingfeng Wu |
| Andrea Farnham | Occupational risk factors for Legionellosis in New York City | Dr. Rachel Gordon | Dr. Sharon Balter |
| Sage Otelia Farrar | Primary and secondary infertility as a risk factor for endometrial cancer | Dr. Jeanine Genkinger | Dr. Sara Olson |
| Yaynebrehan Fekadu | Determinants of maternal death due to post-partum hemorrhage (PPH) in three regions of Ghana | Dr. Awash Teklehaimanot | Dr. Koyejo A Oyerinde |
| Malaya Fletcher | Pandemic preparedness and willingness to work in the funeral service industry | Dr. Stephen Morse | Dr. Robyn Gershon |

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| Colette Friedenson | The association between prenatal exposure to organochlorine compounds and the development of autoimmune thyroid disease in a cohort of 600 from the CHDS database | Dr. Pam Factor-Litvak | Dr. Stephen Morse |
| Erin Gilbert | Social support, PTSD, and alcohol use following a major disaster | Dr. Sandro Galea | Dr. Katherine Keyes |
| Grifin Goldsmith | The relationship between proximity and HIV case status in NYC. Are sexual partners who live near HIV case patients more likely to be cases themselves? | Dr. Gina Lovasi | Dr. Arpi Terzian |
| Abhishek Goyal | Periodontal disease and cancer risk | Dr. Mary Beth Terry | Dr. Abby Siegel |
| Stephanie Grady | Interactions between Beta 2-Adrenergic receptor gene and residential crowding in sudden cardiac arrest | Dr. Gina Lovasi | Dr. David Siscovick |
| Moyatrayee Guha | Retention and predictors of loss to follow-up among men and women enrolled in the MTCT-Plus Initiative in sub-Saharan Africa and Thailand | Dr. Rosalind Carter | Dr. Harriet Nuwagaba-Biribonwoha |
| Maryam Guiahi | Does training at a faith-based institution matter for obstetrics and gynecology residents? | Dr. Carolyn Westhoff | Dr. Kimberly Kenton |
| Kaitlin Hagan | Effect of maternal HIV disease on mortality and morbidity in HIV-exposed uninfected infants | Dr. Rosalind Carter | Dr. Louise Kuhn |
| Rebecca Hanna | The effect of the work environment on condom use among female sex workers: Evidence from Indonesia | Dr. Susie Hoffman | Dr. Robert Magnani |
| David (Tad) Henry | The frequency of cocaine use and stroke | Dr. Magdalena Cerda | Dr. Ping Wu |
| Markay Hopps | Homestead food production's impact on child stunting in Pursat and Prey Veng Provinces of Cambodia | Dr. Jeanine Genkinger | Dr. Zaman Talukder (Cambodia MOH) |
| Spruha Joshi | Can dietary patterns explain differences in adult body size after exposure to famine? | Dr. Lambert Lumey | Dr. Aryeh Stein |
| Molly Jung | Ethnic differences in dietary and total calcium, phosphorus, and magnesium intake, serum calcium and serum phosphorus among US adults and the relationship to metabolic syndrome | Dr. Jeanine Genkinger | Dr. Ryan Demmer |
| Emily Kahn | Contribution of modifiable risk factors to stroke: Population attributable risks in the Northern Manhattan Study Prospective Cohort | Dr. Mitchell Elkind | Dr. Joshua Willey |
| Suganthi Kantasamy | The relationship between suicide normalization and youth suicide risk factors | Dr. Madelyn Gould | Dr. Elaine Abrams |
| Seema Kara | An investigation of the relationship between mental health and the built environment in young adulthood | Dr. Shakira Suglia | Dr. Sharon Schwartz |
| Yuka Karasawa | Examining the socioeconomic determinants of maternal and infant mortality in Bhutan | Dr. Shakira Suglia | Dr. Shukhrat Rakhimjanov |
| Sneha Kelkar | Independent association between objective sleep measures and bone mineral density | Dr. Joseph Lee | Dr. Tien Dam |
| Jillian Knorr | Salmonella disparities in New York City 2009- 2011 | Dr. Rosalind Carter | Dr. Sharon Balter |
| Jacob Kopp | Hurricane experience: A dubious force in the evacuation decision-making process | Dr. Ryan Demmer | Dr. Charles DiMaggio |
| Alexandra Kravitt | Birth outcomes among pregnant women exposed to the World Trade Center Attacks on September 11, 2001 | Dr. Steven Stellman | Dr. Stephen Morse |
| Jacob Kresovich | Paternal age effects on epilepsy | Dr. Ruth Ottman | Dr. Ezra Susser |
| Bryan Kutner | Self-reported autonomy as a predictor of natural recovery and treatment utilization: A national study of people with maladaptive alcohol use | Dr. Deborah Hasin | Dr. Kerry Keyes |
| Jordan Levine | Using small area estimation to predict access to family planning | Dr. Larkin McReynolds | Dr. Eric Green |
| Xianfang Liu | Impact of work stress on alcohol consumption in high school seniors: Moderating effects of academics, parents, peers, and work aspirations | Dr. Guohua Li | Dr. Katherine Keyes |

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| Tran Ly | A cross-section analysis of drug resistant TB strains and potential risk factors in New York City from 2001-2008 | Dr. Neil Schluger | Dr. Tiffany Gary-Webb |
| Yasmin Mahmud | Perceived discrimination, coping, and blood pressure in African American and white adults | Dr. Bruce Link | Dr. Dana March |
| Melody Manyasha | Indoor air pollution caused by low-efficiency biomass fuels and acute respiratory infections in children under the age of 5 years in Malawi | Dr. Pam Factor-Litvak | Dr. Patrick Kinney |
| Ashleigh McGirr | Assessing the effects of human behavior and triage protocols in distributing post exposure prophylaxis: A computer simulation approach | Dr. Stephen Morse | Dr. Nathaniel Hupert |
| Tarek Mikati | Travel risks and patterns of stem cell transplant recipients | Dr. Mary Beth Terry | Dr. Ken Griffin |
| Stephanie Moody-Geissler | The association between maternal education and health-care seeking behavior for children with febrile illness in malaria endemic Senegal: Do mothers with formal education seek care sooner? | Dr. Stephen Morse | Dr. Anne Paxton |
| Stephen Mooney | Malignant bowel obstruction interventions and outcomes in SEER-Medicare | Dr. Al Neugut | Dr. Benjamin Lebwohl |
| Meghan Murray | Epidemiology and risk factors for surgical site infections and hospital-acquired bloodstream infections following cardiac surgery in infants less than one year of age | Dr. Rachel Gordon | Dr. Lisa Saiman |
| Grace Noppert | An ecological study of the association between organized tuberculosis services and the risk of new cases of tuberculosis at the country level | Dr. Neil Schluger | Dr. Simon Tsiouris |
| Dimitra Panagiotoglou | Wait times and patient satisfaction in Canada | Dr. Sharon Schwartz | Dr. Peter Muennig |
| Eric Peterson | Neighborhood determinants of health in HIV-positive individuals | Dr. Mary Ann Chiasson | Dr. Angela Aidala |
| Kelsey Petrie | Using changes in binding globulins to assess oral contraceptive pill compliance in clinical trials | Dr. Carolyn Westhoff | Dr. Heidi Jones |
| Kelly Piersanti | Characterizing risk factors and the natural history of HPV for incident versus prevalent infections in older South African women | Dr. Louise Kuhn | Dr. Mary Beth Terry |
| Rhea Powell | Genetic ancestry and the relationship of cigarette smoking to lung function and percent emphysema in four race/ethnic groups: A cross-sectional study | Dr. R. Graham Barr | Dr. Steven Shea |
| Sarah Reber | Relative effectiveness of different insecticides used for indoor residual spraying in the East Shoa region of Ethiopia | Dr. Stephen Morse | Dr. Awash Teklehaimanot |
| Renata Roney | The role of life stressors in the experience of postpartum depression among racial/ethnic minorities and foreign-born moms in New York City from 2008-2009 | Dr. Lisa Bates | Dr. Judy Sackoff |
| Jonathan Russell | Racial and ethnic disparities in tuberculosis among the U.S. born population in New York City, 2001-2010 | Dr. Neil Schluger | Dr. Shama Desai Ahuja |
| Shira Schwartz | Impact of control over exercise and neighborhood walkability on obesity in a diverse population | Dr. Bruce Link | Dr. Gina Lovasi |
| Rachana Seelam | Number of ALC tests over a three year time period as a predictor of Glycemic control among the under-20, New York City population | Dr. Ryan Demmer | Dr. Shadi Chamany |
| Raina Sharma | Predicting completeness of follow-up using neighborhood effects | Dr. Mary Latka | Dr. Salome Charalombous |
| Lauren Shevell | Epidemiology of HIV and hepatitis B co-infection in Fako Division of Southwest Cameroon. | Dr. Crystal Fuller | Dr. Mary Ann Chiasson |
| Stephanie Shiau | Early initiation of antiretroviral therapy before 6 months of age is associated with beneficial growth outcomes in perinatally HIV-infected children in South Africa | Dr. Louise Kuhn | Dr. Stephen Arpadi |
| Hannah Shin | Coping skills, depressive symptoms, medication adherence in women who seek HIV care in primary care settings | Dr. Quarraisha Abdool Karim | Dr. Gene Pesola |
| Makeba Shiroya-Wandabwa | Association of treatment supporter and category of health facility with 1-yr patient attrition in public HIV Program in Kenya | Dr. Stephen Arpadi | Dr. William Reidy |

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| Ayesha Siddiqui | Severe acute maternal morbidity (SAMM) and family planning attitudes among Afghan women | Dr. Carolyn Westhoff | Dr. Katy Todd |
| Mariam Siddiqui | Persistent peripartum mother-to-child transmission despite PMTCT interventions in Umlazi, a high prevalence setting in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa | Dr. Landon Myer | Dr. Daya Moodley (CAPRISA) |
| Lysa Silverstein | Cancer analysis ten years post 9-11 | Dr. Steven Stellman | Dr. Jiehui Li |
| Jessica Singer | Adiponectin and all-cause mortality in elderly people with type 2 diabetes | Dr. Jose Luchsinger | Dr. Steven Shea |
| Tigest Tamrat | Management of obstetric complications and its effect on adverse newborn outcomes in Amhara and Tigray regions of Ethiopia | Dr. Awash Teklehaimanot | Dr. Koyejo A Oyerinde |
| Victoria Tsai | Correlates of appropriate and inappropriate hepatitis C Testing patterns | Dr. Mary Ann Chiasson | Dr. Stephen Arpadi |
| Amanda Tsang | Lifestyle predictors of viral loads and CD4 counts in low-income women with HIV | Dr. Crystal Fuller | Dr. Jonathan Tobin |
| Namita Vaidya | Investigating the role of gene clustering in determining the transmission patterns of tuberculosis in New York City | Dr. Neil Schluger | Dr. Barun Mathema |
| Cristina Valdovinos | Effect of actual and perceived risk on the use of complementary and alternative medicine for primary breast cancer prevention | Dr. Heather Greenlee | Dr. Mary Beth Terry |
| Shaina Vinayek | A comparison of the effectiveness of the interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) with tuberculin skin testing (TST) in the diagnosis of latent tuberculosis in HIV positive individuals | Dr. Andrea Howard | Dr. Lori Fantry |
| Aishwarya Viswanath | HIV and healthcare-seeking behavior in men in eight Indian cities | Dr. Stephen Morse | Dr. Lambert Lumey |
| Weiying Wang | Treatment effect on glycemic control among type 2 diabetes patients | Dr. Tiffany Gary-Webb | Dr. Ryan Demmer |
| Timothy Wen | Evaluating the quality of care of the retroperitoneal lymph node dissection (RPLND) procedure for testicular cancer patients | Dr. Benjamin Spencer | Dr. Benjamin Lebowhl |
| Kristin White | Effects of the prenatal exposure to the World Trade Center attacks on neurodevelopment in kids | Dr. Parisa Tehranifar | Dr. Julie Herbstman |
| Sarah Wishnek | Racial disparities in surgery and radiation therapy for malignant glioma | Dr. Luisa Borrell | Dr. Judith Jacobson |
| Man Kai Alyssa Wong | Neighborhood poverty and tuberculosis in Cambodia: identifying targets for active case finding | Dr. Simon Tsiouris | Dr. Rajendra Yadav |
| Andres Wong | Prevalence of HIV testing among women who have received pap smear tests in NYC | Dr. Andrea Howard | Dr. Mary Ann Chiasson |
| Kun Xiao | Analysis of herbal medicine use and other complementary and alternative medicine | Dr. Heather Greenlee | Dr. Judith Jacobson |
| Annie Yang | Effect of pregnancy on HIV disease progression in the context of HAART | Dr. Mary Latka | Dr. Matt Price (IAVI) |
| James Yea | Mental health and casual association with physical illness following the 9/11 attacks | Dr. Steven Stellman | Dr. Andrew Rundle |
| Russell Yee | An assessment of fibrotic progression to cirrhosis after interferon-alpha based treatment initiation for chronic hepatitis C-infection in Northern California veterans | Dr. Megan Hall | Dr. Alexander Monto |
| Frank John Jr. Zadavec | Spectral decomposition of the viral meteorological seasonal forcing in reactivated tuberculosis incidence, urban Brazil | Dr. Andrea Howard | Dr. Jeffrey Shaman |

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