



Spring 2016

Issue #2

E-Mailman

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2016

 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

MAILMAN SCHOOL of PUBLIC HEALTH

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Letter from the Alumni Board President Kathleen Crowley, PA-C, MPH, DrPH.....Pg 1
- Committee Updates.....Pg 2
- Alumni Summit.....Pg 3-4
- Hot TopicsPg 5-6
- News on Campus.....Pg 7
- Class Notes.....Pg 7



A letter from the Alumni Board President – Kathleen Crowley, PA-C, MPH, DrPH

UPCOMING EVENTS

 **ALUMNI SUMMIT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP**
JUNE 9, 2016



STEM

SUN, JUN 12 AT 12:00 PM,
CAA STEM Day

GIVE Now

Deadline June 30, 2016
[click here](#)

Congratulations to the Mailman Class of 2016! On behalf of the Board of the Alumni Association we welcome you into the ranks of distinguished members of the Mailman School of Public Health Alumni Association. We also welcome you to your first edition of E-Mailman, the newsletter of the Mailman School of Public Health Alumni Association – by Alumni, for Alumni.

I am honored and privileged to have served as President of the Alumni Association Board for the past three years (2013-2016). I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the Board officers, to our Alumni Affairs and Development Office, and to our Mailman Community for their support during my tenure. We have accomplished much together in these few years. Time has passed very quickly, and I can hardly believe that as I write this message, I am preparing to transition to immediate past president. I am deeply grateful for all the growth within the Alumni Board, propelled collectively by our members as well as by past presidents and board officers.

Making an Alumni Association viable requires a collective effort, and I thank you for all your hard work. While many tasks still lie ahead of us, the Board is invigorated and poised for greatness. As we flip our calendar to academic year 2016/17, I am filled with great confidence in our future and know that with our continued support and participation, we will grow and prosper. We will build on our successes and achieve even loftier goals over the next few years under the leadership of President-Elect Helen Edelberg, MD, MPH '02.

I thank you and the members of the Mailman community for allowing me to serve as your President. I will always remember this wonderful experience. A special thanks to our Alumni Affairs and Development team under the leadership of Arianne Andrusco, including Brintha Jeyalingam, Alyssa Gouvouniotis and Associate Dean Jill Barkan for making these last few years so successful. I am signing off, but I am not signing out. I look forward to seeing you at the Alumni Summit and at upcoming Mailman events this fall.



A Mailman Mentoring Story

— by Myra Gans

On March 11, 2014, I was a guest at a Mailman networking event for graduating students and alumni and had the good fortune to meet Whitney Blanco, an MPH candidate in the class of 2015, who was interested in starting a company. I was delighted to find a note from her via email when I arrived at home that evening:

“Good evening Myra. It was a pleasure to speak with you earlier today. (I am the civil engineer from New Orleans). Sometimes in these networking events, everything is so cold and distant, but the assurance you gave me throughout our conversations gave me a great level of confidence and calmness that helped me truly be myself and “shine” in other eyes. I hope I made a good impression.”

My husband, Arnold Gans '55 and I run a business – so I invited Whitney to have dinner with us and continued to email and join her for dinner over several months. Whitney spent last summer interning at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Switzerland and I know she will excel at all she does.

Committee Updates

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

– Chaired by Anette Wu, MD, MPH

The Special Events Committee includes members of the Alumni Board and non-board Alumni members who are interested in brainstorming and planning alumni events. The Committee promotes events that are of interest to Public Health Alumni. The events are a source for networking, career development, non-credit continuing education and social and intellectual development. The Committee generally meets bimonthly via teleconference. Be on the lookout for email announcements for upcoming exciting events in the fall/winter semester 2016/17. Events are also posted on the MSPH website, www.mailman.columbia.edu. We look forward to seeing you!

Upcoming Special Events:

- Thursday, June 9, 5:00 – 9:00 pm
Alumni Summit, Faculty House, 64 Morningside Drive
- Monday, October 31, 6:00 pm
Alumni Reception at American Public Health Association Conference (APHA), Denver, CO

MENTORING COMMITTEE

– Chaired by Helen Edelberg, MD, MPH

The Mentoring Committee is entering a new era with Michelle Moses-Eisenstein taking over the role of Chair!

The Committee conducted a student needs assessment earlier this year and gained valuable insights about desired improvements in the mentoring experience. Based on the results of this survey, we are collaborating with the Offices of Career Services and Student Affairs to better meet the students' needs. If you're interested in being a mentor, including discussing topics such as professional development, career strategy, and opportunities in public health with current students, please register in the alumni database at <http://bit.ly/27Rjrhp>. We welcome your participation.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

– Chaired by Carlos Cuevas, MPA, MPH

We are pleased to report that Mailman alumni have contributed over \$155,000 from over 650 gifts for the School's alumni scholarship fund, the Fund for Public Health Leadership. Although these gifts will provide scholarship support to 20 amazing students, there are many more excellent students who need our assistance to attend Mailman. We hope you will make a gift before June 30th.

Our goal is to raise at least 5 more \$7,500 scholarships for the fall. Every dollar donated goes directly into a student's scholarship, so whether you can step forward as a leader by joining the DeLamar Society with an annual gift of \$500 or more, join our graduating class in giving \$20.16, or somewhere in between, your support will mean a great deal to an incoming student!

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

– Chaired by Nina Rothschild, DrPH, MPH

The Governance Committee undertook 3 major projects in the past several months: 1) selecting three new Alumni Board members from a slew of distinguished applicants (Gabriel Galindo, DrPH, Madeline Sutton, MD, MPH, and Jeffrey Voight, MPH, MBA), 2) selecting the winners of the Allan Rosenfield Award and the Outstanding Recent Alumni Award, and 3) establishing criteria for emeritus status among Board members who have completed their term of service with distinction and are interested in remaining actively engaged in the Board's work.

Alumni Board members at the Graduating Students Reception May 16th



Arnold Gans

Amy Osario

To join a committee please email mshalum@columbia.edu

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

– by Nina Rothschild, DrPH, MPH

How honored would you feel if your phone rang and the voice on the other end informed you that you had been selected as the winner of the Allan Rosenfield Alumni Award for Excellence or the Outstanding Recent Alumni Award at the Mailman School of Public Health? Very, we hope – and for two lucky, plucky, and all around amazing alumni named John MacPhee '12 and Carlos Cuevas '12, that phone call came this Spring.

The name of Allan Rosenfield conjures up a wellspring of nouns and adjectives, all of them celebratory: a visionary former Dean of the Columbia School of Public Health from 1986 to 2008 who laid the groundwork for the model institution we know today. The Allan Rosenfield Alumni Award for Excellence, established in 2007, honors his legacy and memory and is a testament to his leadership in public health and his integrity and courage. Criteria for selection include exceptional professional accomplishments in the field of public health and outstanding contributions to the Mailman School community. Previous awardees include:

- Paul Brandt-Rauf, ScD, MD, DrPH, Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago and professor emeritus and former chair of the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at the Mailman School;
- Sten H. Vermund, MD, MPhil, PhD, Director of the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health;
- Ilise Zimmerman, MS, MPH, Executive Director of the Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey;
- David Michaels, MPH, PhD, administrator for the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA);



Alumni Summit

- Salim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim, MD, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology and Associate Professor of Clinical Epidemiology;
- James T. Harden, MBA, MPH, Executive responsible for strategic partnerships at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and retired President of Catholic Health Services of Long Island;
- Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry;
- Michael H. Barnett, MS, JD, Of Counsel to the law firm of Lieber & Associates, LLC, a firm specializing in healthcare law;
- Nancy R. Barhydt, RN, DrPH, Director of Clinical Affairs at the New York State Department of Health.

From a slate of strong candidates, John MacPhee, MBA, MPH '12 was chosen to receive the honor in 2016. His past and present accomplishments are substantial: President of Strativa Pharmaceuticals;

leader of the launches of treatments for depression, anxiety, and Alzheimer's disease at Forest Labs; adviser to Trek Medics International, a non-profit dedicated to reducing the global burden of premature death and disability; and member of the Board of Directors of Adamas Pharmaceuticals and Bottom Line (focused on helping disadvantaged youth to go college).

To top off an already illustrious career, John has spent almost four years as Executive Director and CEO of the JED Foundation, a national non-profit promoting psychological health among college and university students by developing tools to help campus professionals support at-risk individuals. The JED Foundation has joined with the Clinton Foundation to develop a nationwide initiative to help institutions of higher learning evaluate and improve their mental health and suicide prevention programs.

Well – if that wasn't enough to bowl you over, we have another dinner guest who will also knock your socks off – the Alumni Board's very own Carlos Cuevas MPH, MPA who is the first recipient of the Outstanding

continued page 4

Allan Rosenfield Alumni Award for Excellence



John A. MacPhee, MBA,
MPH'12

Outstanding Recent Alumni Award



Carlos A. Cuevas, MPA'12,
MPH'12

Alumni Summit - part 2

Recent Alumni Award. This young man on the move was nominated by eight individuals for this honor. The award acknowledges achievements and contributions of graduates from within the past 10 years and salutes role models for current and future public health professionals. Candidates must continue to be involved with Mailman after graduation.

In addition to his very enthusiastic involvement with the Mailman Alumni Board and his exemplary work as Chair of its Development Committee, Carlos currently works as a Senior Policy Advisor to the New York State Medicaid Director, where he oversees the planning and financing for several Medicaid programs and serves as a liaison to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

So – as soon as the invitation arrives in your mailbox for the Alumni Summit for Public Health Leadership, go and register – and you, too, will have the opportunity to listen to some terrific panelists and dine with these illustrious grads. We promise you that this is not just another rubber chicken dinner – it's the chance to celebrate Mailman's finest.

The 8th Annual Alumni Summit to be held on Thursday evening, June 9, 2016 from 5:00-9:00 pm at the Faculty House – by Anette Wu, MD, MPH

The 8th Annual Alumni Summit for Public Health Leadership will welcome approximately 200 alumni for programs led by leaders in public health, a networking reception, and an awards dinner honoring the winners of the Allan Rosenfield Alumni Award for Excellence and the Outstanding Recent Alumni Award. For more info click here: <http://bit.ly/1OU48y0>

This year the Alumni Summit will include a choice of three break-out sessions:

5:00pm - Topical Discussions in Public Health

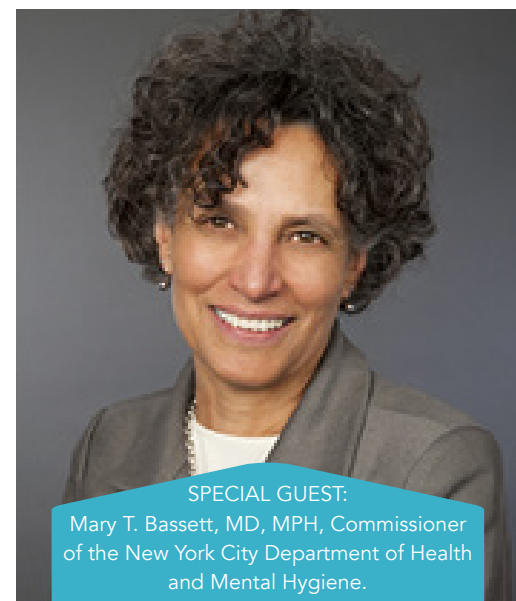
Access to Care & Population Health
Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Climate and Health
Jeffrey Shaman, MA, PhD, Assistant Professor of Environmental Health Sciences

Social Inequalities in Health
Robert E. Fullilove, EdD, Associate Dean for Community and Minority Affairs and Dana March, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology

6:30pm - Cocktail Reception

7:30pm - Alumni Dinner and Presentation of Alumni Awards



SPECIAL GUEST:

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Hot Topics

Population Health Management: An Emerging Term in the Health Care Industry - by Amy Osorio, MPH

The health care industry is increasingly seeing new titles, divisions, and strategic plans incorporating the term “population health management.” Not to be mistaken with population health, population health management has emerged with the onset of several changes in health care policy focused on the delivery of valuable care and the need to reduce costs. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) has defined population health management as the “design, delivery, coordination, and payment of high-quality health care services to manage the Triple Aim for a population using the best resources...available...within the health care system.” The Triple Aim’s three goals are: improving the patient experience, improving the health of populations, and reducing the cost of health care. An example of population health management is the \$8 billion dollar reinvestment in the health care delivery system in New York State through the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) waiver targeting the Medicaid population over the course of five years.

DSRIP requires health care systems to go beyond the walls of their own institutions and partner with other health care-related and community based organizations to redesign the delivery of health care. The waiver addresses reform in infrastructure, system redesign, clinical outcomes, and improvements in population health. Hospital staff involved in DSRIP collaborate with community partners identify their population’s needs and use those needs to inform clinical and population health strategies. These strategies may include projects addressing the management of chronic diseases, primary care, mental health and community outreach. With this multifaceted approach to



“POPULATION HEALTH MANAGEMENT”

connect services across different providers and focus on addressing the social determinants of health, DSRIP aims to achieve a 25% reduction in hospital use over 5 years. Although health systems have undertaken similar initiatives in the past, these activities are now tied to performance and clinical outcomes that encourage patient well-being. Consequences for not reducing hospital readmissions for preventable conditions, for instance, may lead to reduced payments. Population health management ultimately requires partnerships within an organization’s leadership, clinical staff, analytics, and community health, along with engagement with the community in order to ensure quality care and cost containment.

Managers of population health within health care systems will see their responsibilities broaden. A role in community health may be expanded to population health by completing a community needs assessment for a specific population. Directors or managers working in the ambulatory setting may align their primary care efforts to reduce avoidable hospital admissions. Disease program managers may reevaluate their performance measures based on state initiatives. Information technology department managers may work with several teams to collect and stratify data needed to implement initiatives and report to government agencies. All of these individuals may report into a larger strategic planning department charged with coordinating

population health efforts across the health system. These examples of population health activities across a system and in the community demonstrate the demand for a variety of skills to reach the goals of population health management.

As we begin to think about how population health management will change the delivery of care, the larger questions are: how do we bring together different stakeholders to improve health? For how much can a health system be responsible? In a recent conversation about population health and the changing health care landscape, Dean Linda Fried noted that she would like to see different sectors join hands rather than compete, while health department agencies act as orchestra conductors to ensure evidence-based public health efforts and assign responsibilities. This combination would prevent duplication and would have real potential for enhanced health outcomes for populations. “The School [Mailman], and all schools of public health fit into these efforts by offering the science and evidence required by other players to design effective policy and interventions, and by educating students to have the skills and knowledge to navigate these complex relationships,” said Dean Fried. Down the road, health care will see an increased demand for staff knowledgeable about these transformations and approaches to population health.

Hot Topics - Continue

Zika Virus Presents a New Public Health Challenge

- by Jessie Schutt-Aine, MPH '94

The Zika virus is not new. The virus was isolated for the first time in 1947 in the Zika forest in Uganda. For years it remained mainly in Africa, with small and sporadic outbreaks in Asia.

Brazil was the first country in the Americas to report the appearance of Zika in May 2015 when epidemiologists noted a mysterious outbreak of thousands of cases. At that time, Zika seemed relatively mild and did not require hospitalization or lead to death. The first case appeared in the Caribbean in Suriname in November 2015, and then a case was found on the Caribbean island of Martinique in December 2015. The list of affected countries continues to expand, and the entire Caribbean region is at risk. In fact, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) anticipates that Zika will continue to spread and will likely reach all countries where *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos are found.

There are two main reasons for the rapid spread of Zika. First, since this is a new virus to the Caribbean, the entire population is susceptible because it lacks defenses. Second, the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is widespread in the Caribbean due to the warm temperatures and high levels of humidity.

Although the Zika virus is relatively mild, the possibility that a mosquito bite could be linked to an increase in microcephaly among newborns or to Guillain-Barré syndrome alarmed the public and posed a new challenge for public health.

The role of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos in transmitting Zika is



A New Public Health Challenge

documented and well understood. We did not, however, have evidence about other transmission routes until recently. This is now changing. In less than a year, the status of Zika has changed from a medical curiosity to a disease with serious public health implications.

- Zika can be transmitted sexually from men to their female partners.
- Zika can also be transmitted through blood, although this is an infrequent mechanism.
- Evidence on mother-to-child transmission of Zika during pregnancy or childbirth is limited. Research is currently under way to generate more evidence regarding perinatal transmission and to better understand how the virus affects babies.

As of April 2016, there is scientific consensus that the Zika virus is a cause of an unprecedented rise in the number of children born with microcephaly and that the Zika virus is a cause of Guillain-Barré syndrome. The Caribbean now has 3 confirmed cases of microcephaly and several cases of Guillain-Barré. If these numbers increase, this will devastate public health systems that are not prepared for the high costs related to clinical management of these illnesses.

The rainy season is approaching in the Caribbean, and the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology predicts that rainfall is likely to be above normal across the

Caribbean islands this year. We can expect more mosquitos.

In order to combat Zika, we need to do the following:

- Eliminate mosquito breeding sites and step up vector control
- Continue research to better understand modes of transmission
- Provide clinical guidelines to health service practitioners to care for patients with microcephaly and Guillain-Barré
- Educate communities about who is at risk and how to avoid infection
- Strengthen health systems to adequately accommodate the surge in patients due to Zika

More than half of the world's population lives in an area where the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito is present. The current Zika epidemic, along with the previous epidemics of Chikungunya and dengue, have brought to the forefront several urgent public health needs including research on modes of transmission, new tools for mosquito control, research on and development of vaccines; health systems to care for the increased cases of neurological disorders, and psychosocial support systems for families to cope with added burden of microcephaly and Guillain-Barré.



Join Dean Fried by supporting your fellow students. Learn more about our Scholarships programs at <http://bit.ly/1U7TcsC>

News on Campus and around...

Dean Linda P. Fried announced the School's first Dean's Scholarships, merit-based awards for the Mailman School's most exceptional applicants to the master's and doctoral programs. The inaugural Dean's Scholars will be granted full tuition, housing expenses, student fees, and a stipend. In addition, Dean's Scholars will have opportunities to contribute to research and service projects directed by Dean Fried and senior faculty. Individuals being considered for these awards will be selected based on their overall academic strength and the applicability of their professional interests to the School's mission to improve population health and reduce health disparities.

Cecile Richards, President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America and Planned Parenthood Action Fund, delivered the keynote address at Mailman School commencement on May 17, 2016. Ms. Richards leads a key organization dedicated to women's health and reproductive choice. She has been an outstanding leader of Planned Parenthood since 2006 and an outspoken defender of women's health, reproductive rights, evidence-based sex education, and access to health care for women, men, and young people nationwide.

Andrea Baccarelli, MD, PhD is the new Chair for Environmental Health Sciences (EHS). He welcomes us to the Epigenetic Era - read more at: <http://bit.ly/1XugMVZ>

CALL FOR CLASS NOTES

What's new? Tell us about what's going on in your life. New job? Newly published article? New spouse? New baby?

We're eager to hear it all! Feel free to share to the email address below. And send a picture if you have one available! Send news to: emailman@caa.columbia.edu.

Here are this edition's Class Notes:

- Laura Forese, PS '87, MPH '95, has been named chairperson of the newly formed National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center Hospital Board. Dr. Forese is the executive vice chair and chief operating officer at NewYork-Presbyterian, one of the nation's top academic medical centers.
- Donna Lynne, Mailman School DrPH '03, and adjunct professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management, was nominated by Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper to be the state's next lieutenant governor.
- Maureen Malave (Pop Fam), MPH '02 has a new job as a USAID Foreign Service Officer in Global Health Development. She is currently training in DC and will be heading to Mozambique in 2017 with her husband and twin 6 year old boys.
- Michelle Moses-Eisenstein, MPH '12, was appointed as the Chair of the Mentoring Committee and looks forward to the new role and continuing to help organize the "Mailman in DC" week! Michelle was also selected as a 2016

Washington DC fellow in the national New Leaders Council Institute. The New Leaders Council Institute is the premier leadership and professional development, training, mentoring, networking, and career and political advancement program for young professionals. An intensive, five-month progressive entrepreneurship training program, each NLC Institute is highly-selective, admitting only 15 to 20 Fellows to each chapter.

- Nina Rothschild, MPH '92, DrPH '00, is delighted to announce that she has changed jobs at the NYC DOHMH and now has two sets of responsibilities within the Division of Disease Control: emergency planning and health and safety coordination.
- Jessie Schutt-Aine, MPH'94, relocated from WHO Geneva to the Pan American Health Organization, the WHO regional office for the Americas. Jessie heads the Subregional Program for the Caribbean located in Barbados and works closely with CARICOM, the Caribbean Regional Integration Mechanism and the health agencies under their remit.



2016
COMMENCEMENT
SPEAKER
Cecile Richards



**Congratulations Class of 2016
welcome to your next chapter!**
www.alumni.columbia.edu

Get involved with the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA)

Get involved with the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA)! – Kathleen Crowley, PA-C, MPH, DrPH

As alumni of Columbia University, we are part of a global network of more than 320,000 leaders, creators, and change makers bound together by our shared University connection and our collective passion, intellect, and drive. United, we are creating meaningful change for our University and around the world. The Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) invites us to explore the new Alumni Community, an exclusive resource for Columbia alumni

www.alumni.columbia.edu.

Resources include a podcast series, The Low Down, that delivers the best minds and voices from Columbia and Columbians to help us stay smart wherever we are; and access to events via Arts Access, a hub of dynamic programs and resources that connects artists, scholars, producers, and audiences. Membership is free and open to all alumni.

Contact for the Office of Institutional Advancement

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Development Associate

[*Kim Peters](#)

Development Officer

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Special Events

Mentoring

Special Events

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Special Events

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Mentoring, Special Events

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Mentoring

Special Events

Development

Development

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