Spring semester 2014 is in full swing. As we gathered the new students together for their class photo last semester, it was a proud moment that gave me pause. No longer a brand-new program, we have matriculated our tenth class this fall, and have conferred the M.P.H. degree upon more than 190 students thus far. Many of the graduates are working in the Southwest Ohio region, which has been one of the goals of the program since its founding. However, the reach of the program is well beyond Southwest Ohio. The M.P.H. Admissions Committee continues to receive a number of international applications above and beyond an increasingly competitive pool of U.S. applicants. WSU M.P.H. alumnae can now be found across the map of the United States—and some internationally. Several of our graduates have become health commissioners, and most have risen to positions of increased responsibility since completing their degree.

Our M.P.H. program is complemented by affiliated programs including the dual degree Physician Leadership Development Program, the Certificate in Health Care Management program, the Wright State University Raj Soin College of Business M.B.A. program, and an exciting Global Health Program.

Our current four concentration areas of Public Health Management, Health Promotion and Education, Global Health, and Emergency Preparedness remain robust with dynamic leadership. You will be hard-pressed to find a more enthusiastic and student-centered group of faculty, or a more interesting, dedicated, and diverse group of students. It is indeed my honor and pleasure to lead this M.P.H. program as it continues to mature and excel.
The Physician Leadership Development Program (PLDP) offers medical students management and leadership skills, as well as knowledge of health economics and population-based medicine. It is designed to develop future leaders of the health care system, including CEOs of health care organizations, such as hospital systems, government agencies, nonprofit organizations and for-profit health care companies.

In August 2012, Colleen McCormick ('13) was recognized by the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation with a Physicians of Tomorrow Award.

In September 2012, the PLDP hosted an advance screening of *Escape Fire: The Fight to Rescue American Healthcare*. Over 125 students, faculty, and community members attended the screening.

The PLDP students also presented the first Medical Student Leadership Conference in October 2012. This half-day conference provided 57 medical students with information, networking opportunities, and small group workshops led by community physician leaders.

Colleen McCormick ('13) and Betty Cheney (MS-3) presented “Creating Educational Experiences for Dual Degree Students: The Longitudinal Clinical Experience” at the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research Annual Conference, in Washington, D.C., March 11-12, 2013.

Kiran Faryar (MS-4) presented “Students Teaching Students: An Introduction to Healthcare Leadership for First Year Medical Students” at the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research Annual Conference, in Washington, D.C., March 11-12, 2013.

In May 2013, five PLDP students completed their M.D./M.P.H. dual degrees and are currently in their residencies: Meaghan Ebetino (Family Medicine, Wright State University), Robert Eick (Family Medicine, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), Kiran Faryar (Emergency Medicine, University of Louisville), Matias Iberico (Internal Medicine, Kaiser Permanente, San Francisco), and Colleen McCormick (Pediatrics, Northwestern University, Chicago).

Colleen McCormick, M.D., M.P.H. ('13) was presented with the Reach Out of Montgomery County Student Volunteer Appreciation Award and with the American Medical Women's Association Glasgow-Rubin Citation for Academic Achievement. Meaghan Ebetino, M.D., M.P.H. ('13) was recognized with the Geriatric Medicine Award at graduation.

Practice placement making a difference

Roopsi Narayan is a current second year M.P.H. student whose practice placement project was recently featured in the *Yellow Springs News*. A practice placement is an opportunity for each student to get involved in a public health organization to see how they collaborate with the community to achieve objectives and for the student to take part in a project that assists the organization in achieving its mission. As a student in the Emergency Preparedness concentration of the program, she decided to explore options within her local health department which developed into a connection with Dr. Don Brannen, an epidemiologist at the Green County Combined Health District (GCCHD). He was very welcoming of her as he had previously worked with several WSU M.P.H. students.

Through her connection with Dr. Brannen, she was able to take part in three distinct projects: Radiological Disaster Preparedness Training for Public Health Workers for Medical Reserve Corps and interested citizens; Sleep Safe Infant Study; and the study in which Roopsi Narayan was published regarding water de-fluoridation in Yellow Springs’ municipal water supply. The de-fluoridation surveillance study done by the GCCHD preliminarily found that local children who have been exposed to fluoridated water for a shorter period of time had higher rates of tooth decay. The overall hopes of the study are to examine a larger number of children over a longer period of time in order to evaluate the long-term effects of de-fluoridated water. The results from the study come with a caveat as more participation is needed to strengthen the research data, but unbiased long-term research is essential in determining the health impact that public health policies are having on populations.

“Ms. Roopsi Narayan is highly intelligent and capable. I had the opportunity to host her during her practice placement rotation for her M.P.H. degree. Without reservation, she has been the most outstanding student I’ve had,” Dr. Brannen said.

Aside from data analysis, Roopsi was given the opportunity to sit in on multiple tabletop exercises, some of which were held within the health department and others where several agencies such as the MMRS, Red Cross, the National Guard, and other health departments participated. During these exercises, she met with several WSU M.P.H. graduates who are now working with public health agencies around Ohio.

Roopsi was excited to be given the opportunity to not only take part in a real public health study, but also to watch public health leaders make decisions in different stimulated situations. “It was a rewarding experience to spend so many hours with public health leaders, listening to them, and talking with them about their roles, plans, and goals for the future of our community,” she said. “With the de-fluoridation project I hope to make a difference, even if it is tiny, in the dental health of Greene County residents.”

Read the *Yellow Springs News* article: ysnews.com/news/2013/10/fluoride-free-water-may-lead-to-decay-study-looks-at-defluoridation
The Center for Global Health held its annual Student Recognition Ceremony and Reception on April 26, 2013. Prior to the ceremony, the M.P.H. program held its first annual Culminating Experience (CE) poster session.

**M.P.H. CE Poster Presentation Winners**
- 1st place: Daniel Shea
- 2nd place: Ethan Jones
- 3rd place: Antoinette “Matie” Sangye and Chris Buck

**M.P.H. Student Excellence Awardees**

The following M.P.H. students were recognized at the Center for Global Health student recognition ceremony: Kathleen Henschel, WSU Graduate Excellence Award; Ajiri Ikede, Environmental Health; Maalinii Vijayan, Epidemiology; Angela Albrecht, Emergency Preparedness Concentration; Melissa McMillian Michener, Global Health Concentration; Meaghan Ebetino, Public Health Management Concentration

**M.P.H. Graduates for 2012-2013**
- Angela Albrecht
- Ahmed Askar
- Katherine Blossom
- Brenda Bodenmiller
- Christopher Buck
- Sequoia Butcher
- Jasmine Cheeks
- Betty Cheney*
- Meaghan Ebetino*
- Robert Eick*
- Sylvia Ellison
- Maleka Embry
- Athena Fannin
- Kiran Faryar*
- Andrew Ford
- Shaun Hamilton
- Jamie Hartig
- Kathleen Henschel
- Alexis Holmes
- Londa Holliday
- Matias Iberico*
- Ajiri Ikede
- Ethan Jones
- Jessica Kruse
- Ameer Matariyeh
- Melissa McMillian Michener
- Colleen McCormick*
- Daziah Merideth
- Lan Nguyen
- Hibo Noor
- Chika Okere
- Danny Pizzino
- Ashley Rhoby
- Karen Rupp
- Antoinette Sangye
- Daniel Shea
- Danielle Tong
- Usha Bala Vayuvugula
- Ashlee Young
- Chengwu Zhang

* M.D./M.P.H. dual degree students

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**Leader Feature**

…Ohio’s public health leaders tell their stories

The new Leader Feature will appear in each edition in our newsletter. In it, some of Ohio’s public health leaders will share their personal stories and journeys of leadership. Read and/or view their stories in each edition and be inspired!

**Julianne Nesbit, RS, M.P.H.**

Julianne Nesbit is the current Health Commissioner at the Clermont County Health Department.

**How did you arrive at your current position?**

“My undergraduate degree is in environmental management. I stumbled across a position as a Sanitarian for Warren County Combined Health District and was hooked on public health from there. I received my Master of Public Health in 2005 from Wright State University and took a position as assistant health commissioner with Clermont County General Health District. April 1, 2013, I became health commissioner.”

**What advice would you have for others who are aspiring to be public health leaders?**

“My career has been very fulfilling so far and I look forward to the next phase. If aspiring public health professionals are interested in the big picture of public health, I highly recommend they pursue the career they want. Within my first two years as a sanitarian, I knew I wanted to be a health commissioner someday, but it takes time to learn the ropes. I have had great mentors in my career, and I would encourage aspiring leaders to learn all they can from their mentors, take from them the things that you can use, but at the same time develop your own styles and views. You have to be your own leader.”
Public health students work on statewide school wellness initiatives

Wright State University public health faculty and students have been busy implementing and collecting data on two projects funded by the USDA Team Nutrition. Smarter Lunchrooms – Ohio is a statewide dissemination project to create and evaluate smarter strategies in 50 Ohio cafeterias. The Smarter Lunchrooms Movement is a national program created by the Cornell Center for Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition Programs. It is based on behavioral economic theory of nudging individuals to a more desirable choice. My Physical Activity Pyramid encourages classroom teachers to create a moving culture by using physical activity as an instructional tool.

Smarter Lunchrooms—Ohio

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 altered the foods provided by the National School Lunch Program. The federal policy created increased access to whole grains, low-fat milk, and a variety of fruit and vegetables. How and where the foods are offered, though, can significantly influence what foods are actually chosen and eaten by students. Smarter strategies place healthy foods in prime locations and make the items appealing through names, packaging, and presentation.

Graduate public health students at Wright State University play a key role in the Smarter Lunchrooms Movement. Faculty and students are working with five districts, representing 15 local schools. Student teams spend five to 15 hours a week in these schools conducting assessments, meeting with school and wellness committee staff, making strategy recommendations, and collecting production and tray waste data. Outside the cafeteria, students and faculty analyze data, build implementation plans and create reports that share information in meaningful ways.

Health Promotion and Education Concentration director Marietta Orlowski, is the evaluator for the statewide project. Dr. Orlowski, with support from Dr. Bill Spears and graduate research assistant Roopsi Narayan, aggregate the data from all participating cafeterias and will create “Success Stories” to be shared with participating schools.

Ten graduate public health students are actively involved in this project. Students have completed practice placement hours, collected data for culminating experiences as well as learned about the process of dissemination and evaluation of an evidence-based public health project. “The involvement of the public health students has really improved the reach and capacity building of our efforts. The students are a tremendous asset!” says Ohio team nutrition coordinator Susan Patton.

Graduate students participating in the project:
Roopsi Narayan
Haley Riegel
Seth VanZant
Dubem Obianagha
Charles Ituka Mosimah
Fartun Yussuf
Jon Stofer
Ellen Claborne
Emily Surico
Karina Descartin

My Classroom Physical Activity Pyramid

The My Classroom Physical Activity Pyramid was developed as a teaching tool specifically for busy classroom teachers. It is an easy to understand graphic organizer to assess the many ways in which physical activity can be accumulated throughout the school day. The categories of the classroom physical activity pyramid reflect five different types of opportunities for integrating physical activity into the school day: everyday activities, activity breaks, integrated lessons, active games and celebrations, and physical education.

Public health professionals, directors of physical activity, and physical educators can use the pyramid to help teachers identify the numerous opportunities for activity integration, track progress, and organize a plan to meet the recommendation for daily physical activity. The broad categories of the pyramid create a flexible structure that allows teachers to tailor physical activity goals and integration to their classroom context—in other words, “to make it their own.” The classroom physical activity pyramid framework came from the activity pyramid within the Ohio Physical Education Academic Content Standards Evaluation System.

The pyramid tool was highlighted in the national U.S.D.A. Team Nutrition Fall Newsletter and can be accessed through the resource library at http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/state-resources/create-classroom-moves. The pyramid was created by Marietta Orlowski, Kevin Lorson (Department of Kinesiology and Health), Anna Lyon (Department of Teacher Education) and Sue Minoughan (Fairborn City Schools).
Gamma Alpha 2013 inductees were:

Erik Balster (M.P.H. ’10) was selected as the new health commissioner for Greene County Combined Health District in May 2013.

Erin Brigham (M.P.H. ’09) is now working for CareSource in Columbus as an informatics analyst doing health care analytics.

Sequioa Butcher (M.P.H. ’12) accepted a position as health screening manager for corporate wellness with Health Solutions Services Inc. in Cincinnati.

Melissa Howell (M.P.H. ’07) was selected as the new health commissioner for Preble County General Health District in July 2013.

Ahmed Askar (M.P.H. ’12) is now with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as a Regulatory information specialist in the Office of Crisis Management.

Erik Balster (M.P.H. ’10) was selected as the new health commissioner for Preble County General Health District in May 2013.

Further Education

Antoinette Tiopi (M.P.H. ’13) was admitted to the accelerated pathway program in nursing at University of Cincinnati in August 2013. She will begin the program in June 2014.

Awards

Megan Folkther (M.P.H. ’08) Achieve Grant Award in January 2012-December 2013 Presentation at SOPHE- April 2013 also passed CHES

Megan Folkther (M.P.H. ’08), LEGACY Next Generation Leader Award Winner— Community and Social Services Category, July 2013.

Stacey Gardner (M.P.H. ’12) received the Civilian of the Quarter 88 MDG at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in December 2012 and Civilian of the Year, 88 Aerospace Medicine Squadron in December 2012. She and her husband welcomed their firstborn, Nathan John Gardner born on August 2, 2013.

Danny Pizzino (M.P.H. ’13) was accepted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Presentations

Shari Martin (M.P.H. ’10) presented Practical Perspectives on Infant Mortality at the Center for Healthy Communities HealthLink event on Infant Mortality in Ohio, September 2013.

Athena Fannin (M.P.H. ’13) presented “Filling in the gaps in general emergency shelters: Flow processes for functional needs service triage” on April 12, 2013, at the Celebration of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities, a salute to the scholarly explorations of an incredible variety of Wright State’s undergraduate and graduate students. wright.edu/ urop/forms_and_apps/abstract%20booklet%202013.pdf

Danny Pizzino (M.P.H. ’13) presented his CE “A Comparison of Food Inspection Practices of the United States Air Force and Ohio Local Public Health” at the American Public Health Association (APHA) 2013 Annual Conference in Boston, MA.

Danny Pizzino (M.P.H. ’13) invited to present a Case Study on Optic Neuritis with Complication of Uhthoff’s Phenomenon at the Aerospace Medical Association’s (AAMA) 2014 annual conference in San Diego, CA.

Erik Balster (M.P.H. ’10) presented “One-Health and All-Hazards: the New Environmental Health” with Christopher Eddy at the National Environmental Health Association”’s 77th Annual Education Conference on July 11, 2013, in Washington, D.C.

Melissa Howell (M.P.H. ’07), Financial Management for Ohio State University; Financial Management at National Association of City and County Health Officials Conference; Leadership Essentials for Health District Success.

Megan Folkther (M.P.H. ’08), Clearing the Air: Smoke-free Housing Policy in Public Housing Communities. Society for Public Health Education’s (SOPHE) 64th Annual Meeting, April 17, 2013.

Publications


Orlowski, M., Schuster, R. J., Adkins, Sherry M., & Ellison, S. Assessment and management of adult obesity in a primary care practice. World Medical and Health Policy. Manuscript accepted for publication.


News

Cristina Redko became communication director for the refugee section of APHA during the annual meeting in Boston

Michele Battle-Fisher was elected a member of the Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems Science in 2013. The Center, located in Vienna, Austria, is dedicated to fostering research in the field of systems science. http://www.bcsss.org/the-center/

In January 2013, Michele Battle-Fisher established a think tank called Orgcomplexity. This think tank explores the larger policy implications of complexity on health, urban affairs, and other social issues. While there are many “systems science” outfits that lean toward the “science of networks,” this organization will be used to highlight the applications of systems theory and systems methodology to public policy while keeping current with the “science of systems.” The main vehicle for disseminating Orgcomplexity’s work is the blog, orgcomplexity.wordpress.com. Orgcomplexity is on Facebook and to a lesser extent, at orgcomplexity.tumblr.com. As of October 31, 2013, there had been nearly 3,300 views to the blog since January 2013. 370 people were following the Orgcomplexity blog as of October 2013. Five Wright State Master of Public Health students have blogged for Orgcomplexity as guest contributors:

- Angie (Metzger) Thomure—Using Complexity to Respond to Low Influenza Vaccination Rates among Health Care Professionals and Support Staff
- Greg Attenweiler—Preggers with the Flu? Unlocking information flow in the choice to vaccinate among pregnant women
- Karina Descartin—Exploring Built Environments & Social Connection over Buidkndon & Saturday Yard Sales
- Theresa Thompson—Black Female Identity and Breastfeeding
- Thang Vu—two contributions:
  (1) People over 50 are doing what?!!!
  (2) Hun, did you take your meds today?
  Social networks and medical adherence

Presentations


Khamis, H. The loglinear model for analyzing contingency tables, Department of Pediatrics, Children’s Medical Center, Boonshoft School of Medicine, two-hour SOAR-NET workshop, April 26, 2013.

Khamis, H. The Multigraph for loglinear models, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, April 30, 2013.


Publications


Students

News

**Kathleen Henschel** (M.P.H. ’13) accepted a position as an epidemiology specialist with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services beginning December 2013.

**Chika Okere** (M.P.H. ’12) is currently working at CTI Clinical Trial and Consulting as a research associate in the Consulting/Health Economic Outcomes Research department.

**Roopsi Narayan** (M.P.H. student) started as the Health Data and Development Manager at Premier Community Health, Dayton in September 2013.

**Jon Stofer** (expected graduation spring 2014) is our current M.P.H. GA and has been accepted into the University of Pikeville School of Osteopathic Medicine in Pikeville Kentucky and the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is still interviewing for other medical schools and hopes to attend WSU.

**Jon Stofer** is the founder of The Rural Amazonian Health Initiative–Peru, which is currently working to get approved as an NGO registered with the Peruvian government and currently filing as a U.S.-based nonprofit. The initiative is partnered with Global Partners and the Texas/Louisiana District Church. Jon is leading his fifth medical volunteer trip this coming May to the Peruvian Amazon where they are not only going to be treating immediate health care needs, but also will be using his new-found M.P.H. knowledge to do some public health education teaching related to hygiene, sanitation, disease transmission, and basic health care. You can check out the newly launched website at RuralAmazonianHealthInitiative.zohosites.com

**Jon Stofer** was accepted into the Bloomsbury and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Societies.

**Danielle Tong** (M.P.H. ’13) was accepted to the Health Administration Fellowship program at Ohio Health. She is the first social worker and the first M.P.H. they have accepted. Most other fellows historically held Master of Health Administration or Master of Business Administration degrees.


Further Education

**Chika Okere** (M.P.H. ’12) is obtaining a master’s in pharmaceutical sciences (focus on drug development) at the University of Cincinnati. He is scheduled to graduate April 2014.

Presentations


Awards

**Roopsi Narayan** (M.P.H. student), Received a $2,500 scholarship from Great Lakes National Scholarship Program, summer 2013.

Congratulations are due to our four students who were vetted and presented posters and an oral presentation at the 2013 Combined Conference in Columbus on May 21.

**Athena Fannin** (2nd place poster)

**Ajiri Ikede** (poster)

**Antoinette Sangye** (People’s Choice Award poster)

**Kiran Faryar** (oral)

Nikki Rogers, Ph.D., and Kelly Leach

Kelly was a WSU Grad-Prep Scholar from 2012-2013 and wrote the following. “The program really helped me with the application process for grad school. My mentor, Dr. Nikki Rogers, was especially integral to the process; she really helped me figure out what type of research I am interested in and pushed me to be more assertive so that more professional opportunities would be available for me. Because of this, I gave three presentations in the last year, including my first ever oral presentation at a major conference: the European Khat Research Program Conference in Frankfurt, Germany. This presentation, along with the research project Dr. Rogers assigned me, has led to my first two publications which are currently under review. This fellowship allowed me to seriously bolster my CV, and I gained a lifetime friend and mentor in the process.”
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Public Health Grand Rounds
The Center for Global Health holds Public Health Grand Rounds several times a year. All events are free and open to the public.
For more information on the following or future events go to:
med.wright.edu/hsm/education


Feb. 6, 2013: Sara Paton, Ph.D., “Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: The Facts, the Misconceptions, and the Community.” Wright State University, Dayton. (PPT slides available online)

Mar. 19, 2013: Julie Williams, Psy.D., ABPP, CRC, “Disability Awareness: A Call to Build Community Partners.” Indu and Raj Soin Medical Center, Beavercreek. (PPT slides available online)

