

Public Health Rounds

Public Health and Professional Degree Programs - Tufts University School of Medicine

Spring 2011

Aging with HIV in Massachusetts: Current Trends in Health Outcomes and Health Services



Kimberly Yates, MPH '11

with HIV and there is evidence of increased incidence of new infections and late diagnoses in those over fifty. This coupling of aging and HIV has brought new challenges concerning the prevention, treatment, and provision of clinical care and social services to this older population.

For my Applied Learning Experience I worked at John Snow, Inc. under Stewart Landers, J.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine, exploring

Kimberly Yates, MPH '11
Since 1981, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) has been associated with specific risk behaviors and portrayed as a disease of youth. However, a significant number of HIV positive individuals are fifty years and older. The use of antiretrovirals has increased the number of people living and aging
the trends between younger (under 49) and older (aged 50+) HIV positive individuals in Massachusetts with respect to new infections, HIV risk awareness, disease progression, and health services. I performed a secondary data analysis on medical chart data gathered from 17 private, public, community, and academically affiliated HIV/AIDS primary

care health centers. I also conducted three key informant interviews to explore the challenges to the provision of secondary risk reduction counseling to older HIV positive individuals.

My analysis produced several interesting results. The percentage of individuals over fifty and newly diagnosed with HIV increased from 10% in 2003 to 16.3% in 2008 at these sites. Surprisingly, only half of those newly diagnosed individuals over 50 were documented as being aware they were at risk for HIV. Further, most were tested for HIV as a result of presenting with clinical symptoms associated with HIV/AIDS. Older individuals had lower CD4 counts and were more likely to have progressed to AIDS when compared to younger individuals. Quick disease progression or a concurrent HIV/AIDS diagnosis represents a missed opportunity to address the health needs of the patient and prevent transmissions.

Heterosexual sex activity represents the largest proportion of HIV transmission in the older population, increasing from 43% to 77% between 1999 and 2008. This increase has been attributed to erectile dysfunction medications and relationship changes due to divorce and death combined with low awareness of HIV risk and prevention methods.

The provision of sexual risk reduction counseling was significantly different between the two age categories in the 2007 review period with the older group receiving less than the younger, 90.8% and 96.5%, respectively. The key informant interviews revealed that clinicians may forget to provide secondary risk reduction counseling to long term patients, such conversations can be uncomfortable, and a subtle bias exists that older individuals are not sexually active or engage in risky behaviors associated with HIV transmission. One clinician admitted that secondary risk reduction counseling was not provided regularly to long term, stable patients, saying, "it isn't something I think about."

Also interesting, though not statistically significant, the older population had a higher percentage of alcohol abuse in 2007 (19.5% vs.12.2%, $p=0.06$) and 2008 (20% vs.14.3%, $p=0.15$). Alcohol influences the risk for HIV infection, often reducing

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PHPD Programs Dean's Message



Aviva Must, Ph.D.

With this issue, the tradition of commenting on progress with health reform must take a holiday, as having finally gotten a budget resolution to fund this year's budget, it is anyone's guess what will occur as Congress begins debate over next year's budget. Sadly, politics seem to be governing, rather than good sense—

and there is no shortage of disappointments. As the state continues to feel the impact of the global economic crisis and with federal fiscal relief for states ending in Fiscal Year 2012, public health and health care funding will surely be hit—the only question is how hard. At the time of this writing, the Governor has outlined \$25 million in cuts to public health. Significant reduction or total elimination of several areas are proposed: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention programs including colon, breast and cervical cancer screening; cuts to environmental public health services, including food safety, radiation monitoring, and water testing at public beaches; reductions in funding for primary prevention programs, such as the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program and tobacco control. For those living in MA, the Massachusetts Public Health Association or the advocacy organization of your choice needs your help!

And speaking of advocacy, I'm delighted to announce the initiation of the H. Jack Geiger Public Health Advocacy Award. This award will be given to a graduating Public Health student who has demonstrated a body of work contributing to advocacy for public health and social justice. This year's recipient will be Aaron Marden for his work on student health insurance reform. He founded and led the Student Health Organizing Coalition (SHOC). Aaron earns his MPH this May (see article on p. 10). We are looking forward to seeing where his zeal for public health issues takes him. We also this year have the first recipient of the Morton A. Madoff Fellowship award (see article p. 10).

April 7th marked World Health Day all over the world and the first annual symposium at Tufts. The symposium was hosted by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Association of Greater Boston, and Tufts' Department of Public Health & Community Medicine. Organized by several students in the Global Health concentration of the MPH program, with guidance from Professor Enku Kebede-Francis, the symposium was devoted to a celebration of the impending eradication of Guinea Worm disease, a debilitating and painful infection caused by a roundworm. The decline of the disease, from 3.5 million cases to fewer than 1800 over the last twenty-five years, is a triumph of health education and vector control. The full program was webcast and archived; the talks can be accessed at <http://www.tufts.edu/med/education/phpd/mpd/concentrations/globalhealth/worldhealthday.html> (see article on p. 4).

This spring marks the end of Larry Bacow's tenure as Tufts' twelfth president. The University has certainly flourished under his able and inspired leadership. Several others in the senior leadership of the University have taken this opportunity to move on as well. We are all waiting with great expectation and excitement to the arrival of Tufts' next president, Anthony Monaco, MD, PhD, most recently from the University of Oxford. As he and his new leadership team are assembled, we will be sure that the Public Health Programs are high on their agenda.

At this time of year we're looking forward with anticipation to May 22nd: Commencement. We expect to confer 90 master degrees across our programs. Our commencement speaker this year is Barbara Ferrer, MPH, PhD, Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission. As Boston's Health Commissioner and champion of reducing health disparities, her remarks are sure to be memorable. Also on our commencement program is Earlene Avalon, PhD, MPH'01, inaugural president of the PHPD Alumni Association. It promises to be a great day.

Aviva Must, Ph.D.
Dean, Public Health and Professional Degree Programs

An Innovative Research Tool: Audio Computer-Assisted Self Interview

Ashley Malins, MPH Candidate

Not satisfied with existing computerized questionnaires to conduct research, Dr. Alice Tang, Associate Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine, and her team of programmers, Scott Sughrue, Web/Database Administrator and Jeanette Queenan, Database Analyst, created their own system. Over the past five years, Dr. Tang and her team have developed their own unique version of an Audio Computer-Assisted Self-Interview (ACASI) System, an innovative research tool designed specifically for research on sensitive topics.

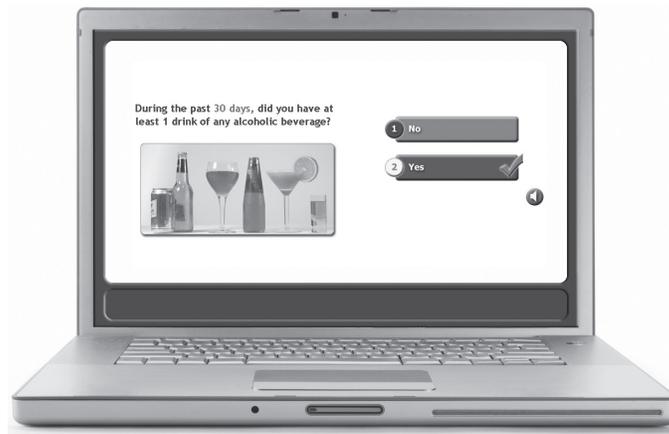
ACASI systems tout a number of advantages over their paper-based counterparts. In particular, the computerized questionnaire is better suited to collect data on sensitive topics, like illegal drug use or risky sexual behaviors. ACASI maintains study participants' confidentiality as the audio component allows survey questions to be read to the participant through headphones and participants can enter their responses directly into the computer, silently and privately. The audio component is especially helpful for individuals with literacy issues. The system also provides standardized questionnaire delivery which effectively lessens the effect of any bias that may occur through interviewer administration.

In comparison with other electronic questionnaire systems, the Tufts ACASI system offers researchers greater flexibility and convenience in questionnaire construction while providing respondents a user-friendly experience. Programmers have developed the system so that the visual display can be tailored to appeal to particular age and cultural groups. As an additional service, Dr. Tang and her team provide advice to their clients on how to construct better survey questions as well as how to adapt their paper surveys to the ACASI format.

The Tufts ACASI system can be used for single or multi-site studies and questionnaires may be administered in a number of languages, such as Spanish, Hindi, or Vietnamese. It offers a variety of possible question types including yes/no, multiple choice, scale, numeric entry, text entry, and interviewer-administered (no audio).

Internationally renowned schools of medicine and public health

have already begun to employ the Tufts ACASI system to conduct vital research. Currently the system is being used at the Hanoi School of Public Health in Vietnam, with truck drivers in South India, and in a clinic setting in Alaska. ACASI systems for Vanderbilt University, Seattle Children's Hospital, University of Kansas, Baylor University, and University of Miami, and other research institutes are currently in development.



Sample of online ACASI System on laptop

The Tufts ACASI system continues to evolve as clients present unique challenges which lead to system improvements and the creation of new features. For example, at the request of researchers, programmers have integrated keyboard and touch screen technologies in addition to the original mouse-click feature to record answers. The Tufts ACASI system

currently runs on any Windows-based operating system, including desktops, laptops, or netbooks. It is a stand-alone system designed specifically for clinic- or field-based research studies and does not run over the Internet. The data are output as a comma-delimited text file that can be imported into most statistical programs.

Although the benefits of ACASI are well-established for certain areas of research, Dr. Tang stresses the need to validate the use of these systems in other population contexts and cultural situations. She suggests that some populations, whether domestically or abroad, may be suspicious of technology and submitting their personal information electronically.

Dr. Alice Tang holds a Ph.D. in Epidemiology from Johns Hopkins University and a M.S. in Biostatistics from Harvard University. Dr. Tang's research interests include the causes and consequences of nutrition and metabolic abnormalities in people living with HIV/AIDS and other comorbidities; food insecurity and malnutrition in substance abusers in the U.S., India, Vietnam, and Argentina; and the use of new technologies to improve research and clinical care.

To learn more about ACASI, and to download a free interactive demo, please visit Tuft's Public Health and Community Medicine Department's Nutrition/Infection Unit website or go directly to <http://acasi.tufts.edu>.

Commemoration of World Health Day @ Tufts

Tufts University School of Medicine's Department of Public Health and Community Medicine and the United Nations Association of Greater Boston commemorated World Health Day and celebrated at Tufts the impending eradication of Guinea Worm and the eradication of Rinderpest.

Robin Glover, Associate Dean of Public Health and Professional Degree Programs, sat down with Enku Kebede-Francis, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine, to ask her about the event.

Can you tell us what World Health Day signifies?

Since 1950, on April 7th of each year, the World Health Organization (WHO) has commemorated World Health Day (WHD) by highlighting an important global public health issue. The WHO theme for 2011 was "Antimicrobial Resistance and its Global Spread." Past WHO themes included: urbanization and health, protecting health from climate change, road safety and international health security.

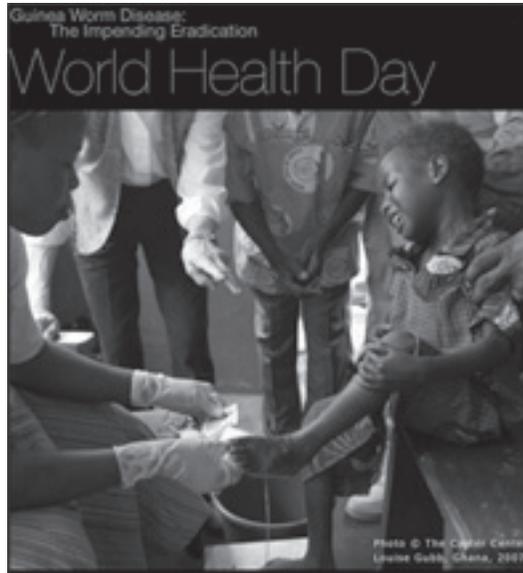
We decided to mark this important day by celebrating the impending eradication of Guinea Worm, because so rarely do we eradicate a disease: it has been 44 years since a devastating disease, small pox, was eradicated. Because Rinderpest, also called cattle plague, is also slated for eradication in May 2011, we invited a representative, Gretchen Kaufman, DVM, Assistant Professor, Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine (where important work on Rinderpest has been done) to speak about the disease.

Why and how did you organize the event?

It was apparent that controlling and eradicating diseases requires the collaboration of many groups, including scientific and educational communities like Tufts and other universities, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations, governments and local communities. We, therefore, teamed up with the United Nations Association of Greater Boston (UNA-GB) in organizing this event. We contacted the Carter Center for material and advice and invited representatives from WHO, Rotary International and experts from the Tufts faculty as well as four graduate students to make presentations.

Please give an overview of the presentations.

As Tufts' MPH program emphasizes the practice of public health, WHD was an opportunity for us to invite graduating



students to participate actively in the event. Three MPH candidates from Tufts University, Hagger Ali, Lauren Burgunder and Kevin Welch and a Emerson College MS – Health Communication student, Mychal Voorhees helped organize the event and participated in the panel.

The representative of UNA-GB, Kaitlin Hasseler, spoke eloquently about the work of the United Nations on global health issues. The representative of Rotary International, Walter Hughes, noted that tackling global public health issues rests with the medical and scientific communities, civil society,

governments and non-governmental institutions working in collaboration. He provided concrete examples of how the eradication of Guinea Worm, initiated by the Carter Center, developed the collaboration with various governments, Rotary International, UNICEF, World Vision and other groups. Rotary International was at the forefront of the eradication of Polio in the United States and is now actively working to eradicate the disease in developing countries. A new Rotary initiative involves tackling another of the Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD), Buruli ulcer. Experts and students from Tufts University will collaborate with Rotary on this project.

Dr. Lawrence Bacow, President of Tufts University, gave an opening remark via video. Dr. Aviva Must, Dean of Tufts University School of Medicine's Public Health and Professional Degree Programs, welcomed the guests and gave a comprehensive assessment of the program. As previously noted, Dr. Kaufman from Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine spoke about the impact of Rinderpest on animal and human lives, as well as on the economy. Dr. Odilia Bermudez, Associate Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine (PHCM), gave an overview of the MPH Global Health concentration. Dr. Siohban Mor, Assistant Professor of PHCM elaborated on Tufts' "One Health" program which links human health, animal health and the environment, relevant to controlling and eradicating NTD and other diseases.

We were fortunate to have Dr. Albis-Francesco Gabrielli, a representative of WHO/PAHO based in Washington and international health expert deliver the keynote address. He succinctly presented the history of neglected tropical diseases, described what is being done and what should be done and provided the

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Physician Leadership Education

Nicolas Frisch, MD/MBA '11, Daniel Lucier, MD/MBA '11

In the early Fall of 2009 Dr. Deeb Salem, the Chairman of Medicine at Tufts Medical Center (TMC), invited us for a meeting to discuss a potential opportunity to begin developing a physician leadership education program at TMC. Given the growing emphasis on clinical outcomes and efficiency, as well as performance-based reimbursement, there has been a heightened awareness surrounding the complexity of health care administration and management. The importance of physician leadership education has been reflected by the increasing trend toward customized programs focusing on management education and leadership development for physicians and administrators in major medical centers throughout the country.¹²³⁴ As a leading academic medical center, TMC aspires to develop and implement its own physician leadership program.

The first phase of our work involved benchmarking existing physician leadership programs. The programs reflect a variety of philosophies regarding the most effective approach to physician leadership education broadly grouped into two categories: in-house or outsourced. The purpose of this review was to become familiar with the various models in order to develop one appropriate for TMC. Multiple organizations were benchmarked, some offering courses in a for-profit model to physician leaders from outside institutions and some offering in-house programs. Carilion Clinic and Cleveland Clinic typify the in-house approach, the benefits of which include being able to teach courses in accordance with an organization's culture, as well as the return on investment associated with building team relationships between physician leaders. Harvard's School of Public Health and the American College of Physician Executives offer a selection of courses to outside applicants who pay an out-of-pocket fee to attend. The benefits of these programs include providing an advanced level of teaching (most Harvard courses are taught by DBAs rather than existing physician leaders) and the case-based teaching method.

While each approach has its advantages, an in-house program appears more beneficial for TMC for several key reasons: 1) the program's maxim is concordant with the culture of the organization, 2) the curriculum is customizable so that specific

course material can be tailored towards the existing needs of the physician leaders enrolled in the program, 3) the in-house program can foster innovation and collaboration between rising physician leaders, and 4) the overall cost can be greatly reduced. These benefits have been reflected in other organizations which have shifted from outsourcing to an in-house program.⁴

Over the past several months, TMC has assembled a team to develop a specific strategy and model for physician leadership education. On the team are Dr. Deeb Salem, Dr. Linden Hu, Karen Leibold (Director of Human Resources) and Dr. Michael Wagner (Chief Medical Officer). TMC has a clear advantage in being closely aligned with Tufts University School of Medicine (TUSM). Each year TUSM provides dual-degree training to MD/MBA students through their affiliation with Brandeis University's Heller School of Social Policy and Management. Realizing the advantages of this affiliation, Dr. Marcia Boumil, Associate Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine, and Dr. Joe Jabre, Director of the MD/MBA Program, have also been included in several discussions involving potential collaboration.

Currently, the curriculum and teaching structure is near completion and instructors are being recruited. TMC hopes to have full implementation for the initial course offering in the coming year. There is no question that this marks an exciting new prospect for both TMC and TUSM. Working with the aforementioned team has provided us incredible insight into the administrative aspects of hospital management, as well as the challenges associated with rolling out new programs. We appreciate the opportunity to be involved in this project and look forward to following the program as it continues to develop.

Connect via Facebook & LinkedIn

facebook

The Public Health Programs are now on Facebook under Tufts University Public Health Programs. The MS-Pain Research, Education and Policy Program also has a Facebook page.

LinkedIn

The Public Health and Professional Degree Programs are on LinkedIn under Tufts Public Health and Professional Degree Programs Alumni

1 Merry MD. Physician leadership for the 21st century. *Qual Manage Health Care*. 1993;1:31-41

2 Tangalos EG et al. Mayo leadership programs for physicians. *Mayo Clin Proc*. 1998;73:279-284

3 Bailin PL, Bonecutter TA. Executive program in practice management: a new concept in management education. *NAHAN Management Journal*. 1991;16:8-11

4 Stoller JK et al. Physician management and leadership education at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation: program impact and experience over 14 years. *J Med Pract Management*. 2007;4:237-242

Public Health Alumni Association Re-Energized

Nicole Holland, DDS, MS-Health Communication Candidate

The Tufts University School of Medicine Public Health and Professional Degree Programs (PHPD) Alumni Association kicked off the year with a bang! The once stagnant Association has resurfaced with a vibrant and dynamic energy under the leadership of Earlene Avalon, Ph.D., M.P.H. '01, President of the PHPD Alumni Association. Dr. Avalon noted that “engaging our alumni is probably the most important first step that we can take”. The Association plans to accomplish this goal with two big initiatives this year: 1) Host a Professional Development Workshop for alumni on June 4, 2011, followed by an informal networking social; and 2) Increase communication among PHPD alum via an electronic newsletter. Dr. Avalon will also be a featured speaker at the PHPD Commencement Ceremony in May to inform graduating students of the benefits of membership in the PHPD Alumni Association with respect to library access, discount hotels, events, etc.

In addition to Dr. Avalon, the PHPD Alumni Association Board Members include Jennifer Chow, MPH '09, Vice President, Alia Hastings, MPH '08, Secretary, Gregory Piech, MBS, MPH '10, MS-Biomedical Sciences Program Representative, Monica Kung, MS-Health Communication '02, MS-Health Communication Representative, Bernadette Jaros, MS-Pain Research



Earlene Avalon, PhD, MPH '01

Education and Policy '01, PREP Representative, Sheeraz Qureshi, MD, MBA '02, MD/MBA Representative, and MPH Program Representatives, Cindy Marti Martin, MPH '07, Mawuli Nkayu, MPH '07, Christina Licursi, MPH '07.

All PHPD alumni from the MPH (MD/MPH, DVM/MPH, BA/MPH, MS-Nutrition/MPH, JD/MPH, MBS/MPH), MS-Health Communication, MS-Biomedical Sciences, MD/MBA, and MS-Pain Research, Education and Policy Programs, are members of the Association.

Dr. Avalon wants alumni to know that the Association is specifically for graduates of the PHPD Programs, and she goes on to note that “it was created by us for us, and we all can play a part to make it successful.”

The overall mission of the Association is to help graduates develop and advance their public health and health careers through networking events and educational opportunities and to strengthen the Tufts PHPD Programs through fundraising, mentoring and internship opportunities. Dr. Avalon encourages alumni to send in suggestions of activities they would like the Association to support via med-PHPD@tufts.edu.

World Health Day @ Tufts

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audience an overview of the neglected diseases that are currently targeted for control or eradication. His remarks gave the audience much to reflect on.

What was the outcome of the event?

We exceeded our expectations in several ways. We hope that attendees went away with a better understanding that eradication of a disease requires greater knowledge of the natural history of the disease and its cultural context in order to formulate public policy and effectively communicate public health messages to the community at large.

The Dean of Public Health and Professional Degree Programs announced that celebration of World Health Day at Tufts would become an annual event at the Tufts University School of Medicine and sponsored by the Department of Public Health

and Community Medicine and each year will address a selected theme. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Paul Hattis, Senior Associate Director of the MPH Program, Dr. Anthony Schlaff, MPH Program Director, the Public Health and Professional Degree Programs Student Activity Fund Committee and the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine for their financial support of this event.

Students will select the theme for WHD 2012 and invite their classmates and students from other universities to participate in the event. We will work with Tufts' internationally recognized faculty and faculty at other universities with expertise in infectious diseases and water science. We plan to continue our collaboration with UNA-GB, WHO and Rotary International.

Finally, since it takes a village to get rid of a disease, we invite all to contribute to the eradication of neglected diseases because we should not forget that neglected diseases mean neglected people.

Faculty Notes

Doug Brugge, PhD, MS, Professor of Public Health & Community Medicine (PH&CM), gave two talks in Telluride, Colorado in December, 2010. The one for middle and high school students, was titled, “Bilagāana: The Career of a White Boy from the Rez.” The other, given for a general audience from the town, was titled “Health Effects of Uranium Mining: New Research Findings.”

Kenneth K. H. Chui, PhD, MS, MPH, Assistant Professor of PH&CM, recently co-authored a manuscript “Visual Analytics for Epidemiologists: Understanding the Interactions Between Age, Time, and Disease With Multi-Panel Graphs” in *PLoS ONE*. In January 2011, he delivered a 3-day workshop with Dr. Elena Naumova, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, on “Time Series Analysis and High-Dimensional Data Visualization” at the Christian Medical College, Vellore, India.

Joseph A. DiMasi, PhD, Research Assistant Professor of PH&CM and Director of Economic Analysis at the Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development, has co-authored a paper with Laura B. Faden, MPH '09 and PhD candidate, Harvard University, entitled “Competitiveness in Follow-On Drug R&D: A Race or Imitation?” that was published in the January 2011 issue of *Nature Reviews Drug Discovery*. The study examines the timing of patenting and development for approved drugs in the same pharmacologic classes.

Lisa Gualtieri, PhD, ScM, Adjunct Assistant Clinical Professor of PH&CM, published “From Twitter to Megaphones: Seven Lessons Learned about Public Health Crisis Communication” in *Online Journal of Public Health Informatics*, Vol 2, No 3. She ran a full-day workshop on Social Media for Public Health for the MA Department of Public Health, assisted by Susan S. Gallagher, MPH, Assistant Professor of PH&CM and Elizabeth Keyser, an Emerson College student.

Mark Haas, MBA, Clinical Instructor of PH&CM, recently spoke at the New England Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) conference on work he has done to assist Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) in combating medical identity theft/fraud and protecting patients from this fast growing crime.

Enkutatash Kebede-Francis, PhD, MS, MEd, Assistant Profes-

or of PH&CM, published a text book titled, *Global Health Disparities: Closing the Gap Through Good Governance*. (<http://www.jblearning.com/catalog/9780763778934/>).

Joann Lindenmayer, DVM, MPH, Associate Professor of Public Health, Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, and **Jeffrey Griffiths, MD, MPH&TM, Associate Professor of PH&CM**, had five abstracts presented at the 1st International One Health Congress in Melbourne, Australia, from February 2011. Two of the abstracts were entitled “Curriculum Asset Mapping for One Health Education” (Mor SM, Robbins AH, Jarvin L, Kaufman GE, and Lindenmayer JM); “A ‘One Health’



l-r Dr. Christine Rioux, Aaron Marden, MPH'11 and other students from Tufts, Harvard, Boston University and Roxbury Community College presenting an interactive exhibit on traffic pollution and health at the Museum of Science

Strategy for Building Capacities for Preventing and Responding to Disease Outbreaks” (Alders R, Deen J, Elkins D, Hatch D, Kempel J, Lahm S, Lindenmayer JM, Morehouse M, Nutter F, and Pelican K). All of the abstracts will be published in *EcoHealth* 7(Suppl1):S136.

Amy Lischko, MSPH, DSc, Associate Professor of PH&CM, was

appointed to the National Association of Social Insurance (NASI) expert panel on health insurance exchanges. In this role Professor Lischko works with other experts to provide assistance to states as they implement Health Insurance Exchanges that are required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) of 2010. In addition, she will be the theme leader for Health Reform Implementation at this year's Annual Research Meeting of AcademyHealth to be held in Seattle, June 12-14.

Paula Minihan, MPH, PhD, Assistant Professor of PH&CM, was elected in fall 2010 to a three-year term as Secretary for the Alliance for Disability in Health Care Education. The Alliance is a multidisciplinary group of health care educators who are working to ensure that curricula in health care training programs include instruction and experiences related to the health care needs of persons with disabilities. Its members include faculty and staff from health care training programs throughout the United States.

Siobhan Mor, BScVet, PhD, Assistant Professor of PH&CM, gave two presentations at the 1st International One Congress in Melbourne, Australia, February 2011. They were entitled “Assessing Seasonality of Vector-Born and Zoonotic Diseases” (Mor SM and Naumova EN) and “Using a Competency-Based Enterprise Architecture for Teach-

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New Public Health Student Groups

Ashley Malins, MPH Candidate

The Tufts University Public Health and Professional Degree (PHPD) Programs is home to a number of Student Groups that



Members of Tufts Disaster Relief Team, l-r, Doris Kim, MS-Biomedical Sciences '11 and Kelsey Reno, MS-Biomedical Sciences '11

promote a variety of topics on campus. With members from various health science programs/schools and beyond, Tufts PHPD Student Groups are leading the way in community, national, and global public health advocacy.

An affiliate of the Massachusetts Public Health Association, **Community Health Advocates at Tufts (CHAT)** was the first official PHPD student organization formed within the PHPD Programs by its current president, Allison Lipps, MPH '11. CHAT members are graduate students interested in health promotion advocacy and policy from the School of Medicine, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, and the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning. CHAT focuses on health promotion, health policy, and engaging the community at local, state and national levels about issues of public health relating to health promotion, disease prevention, and management. CHAT provides students with real-world work experience in health promotion advocacy through short and long-term opportunities. This group currently has 70 student members; membership is open to all. To learn more about CHAT, or to join, please visit: <http://sites.tufts.edu/chat/>.

In response to the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, MS - Biomedical Sciences students Doris Kim, '11 and Kelsey Reno '11 founded the **Tufts Disaster Relief Team**. The mission of this student organization is to raise campus awareness of global health issues that are caused by natural or manmade disasters and to provide financial aid in disaster relief. Natural disasters, such as tsunamis, droughts, and earthquakes, may occur without warning and leave a country in a state of considerable turmoil. By acting quickly and faithfully, the Tufts Disaster Relief Team hopes to provide aid and awareness to affected countries on their long road of recovery. Ms. Kim states, "I hope that this organization can provide a great opportunity for students to remain active members of their community. As a student, it is sometimes easy to be in a 'bubble' and feel like there isn't much to contribute to world issues. I believe that by being aware and sensitive to the impacts natural disasters can have on the healthcare needs of a country, we can all become more socially conscious healthcare professionals." The Team has hosted a number of successful fundraising events, with proceeds going to Partners in Health and Holy Trinity Music School of Haiti. The Team is preparing for a fundraiser in April and Trivia night in May; these events will focus on both Haiti and Japan. The Tufts Disaster Relief Team currently has 10 student members from the MPH and MBS programs. To learn more about this group, or for details on upcoming events, please contact Doris.Kim@tufts.edu.

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Members of CHAT, l-r, Jackie Smith, MA-Health Communication (HCOM) candidate at Emerson College, Helen Corless, MPH Candidate, Joanna Logue, MA-HCOM Candidate at Emerson, Jamie Tully, MS-Nutrition/MPH Candidate, and Elizabeth Keyser, MA-HCOM Candidate at Emerson

New Public Health Student Groups

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The Diversity Council is Tuft's newest PHPD student group. The mission of the Diversity Council is to recognize and celebrate the unique composition of the community through various lenses; culturally, racially, place of origin, and with regard to sex, gender orientation and identity, religious background and observances as well as differences in ability; while serving to support and implement policies and practices recognizing and respectful of such differences. The Council strives to uphold the tenets of Diversity and Inclusion by increasing knowledge and awareness of diversity as they relate to health and wellbeing of diverse communities. The Council hosts an annual live event and maintains volunteer and fundraising opportunities. The Council is currently organizing a soap drive to support those affected by disasters as a means to preventing the millions of deaths caused by hygiene-related illnesses around the world. The Diversity Council currently consists of 10 members from schools on the Health Sciences

Campus as well as several alumnae supporters. Membership is open to Tufts University Medical School students as well as the Tufts undergraduate community. To learn more about this group, or for details on its upcoming events, please contact Diane.Randolph@tufts.edu or Jessica.Corwin@tufts.edu.

Student Groups provide a wonderful opportunity to get involved and develop practical experience to complement a degree in public health and related fields. Groups are funded through the PHPD Student Activity Fund. If you are interested in forming a student group, submit a New Student Organization Registration form. Applications are reviewed once a year by the Public Health and Professional Degree Programs' Directors at their October meeting; the application deadline is September 15th. For further details and to obtain an application, go to <http://www.tufts.edu/med/about/studentresources/studentervices/forms/index.html>.

Cell-Abraction!

Nada Farhat, MD, MPH Candidate, who's currently in a residency program at the Tufts Medical Center's Department of Pathology, made a generous donation of art work to the Tufts University School of Medicine. The art work was inspired by cell tissues and is entitled, Cell-Abraction, and is housed in the Biomedical Sciences and Public Health Building's M&V lobby.

Dr. Farhat keeps both of her passions for medicine and art at the forefront via donations of her work to non-profit organizations. Themes of her work are inspired by hybrids of Middle Eastern architecture, Islamic patterns and science.

Dr. Farhat stated "I decided to make a donation of my art work to serve as a token of appreciation to all the faculty and students that have made my experience in the MPH program not only fruitful to my career, but also pleasurable and memorable. I will take with me the valuable academic enlightenment I have gained throughout my time at Tufts University where ever I go."

There was a reception held in November 2010 to celebrate the dedication of the artwork. The event was attended by Dr. Harris Berman, Dean ad interim of the Tufts University School of Medicine, Dr. Aviva Must, Dean of the Public Health and Professional Degree Programs, members of the Tufts Medical Center's Department of Pathology, students, faculty and staff.

To learn more about Dr. Farhat's art work, please visit her web site at www.nadafarhat.com.



Nada Farhat, MD, MPH Candidate

Morton A. Madoff Public Health Fellowship

Morton A. Madoff, MD, MPH left his imprint on the Commonwealth and here at Tufts. He was instrumental in the formation of the Tufts Health Plan; under his stewardship as director of the Massachusetts State Laboratory in the 1970s, he was a major force in the building of a state-of-the-science laboratory facility; as Chair of the Tufts Department of Community Health he established one of the first two MD/MPH Programs in the country; and under his leadership as Dean of the School of Medicine, several other public health programs were established.

To honor Dr. Madoff's commitment to promoting the training and career development of students with interest in public health, public policy and health care management, the Morton A. Madoff Public Health Fellowship was established. The Fellowship was made possible as the result of generous donations from faculty, students, staff, alumni, the public health community, and Madoff family and friends.

The Fellowship award in the amount of \$3,000 is awarded annually on the April 1st of each year and used over the next year to fund a health-related project. Eligible applicants include students in the School of Medicine, Sackler School and the Public Health and Professional Degree programs. Applicants

must address how the proposed project will contribute to or enhance their career in public health, public policy or health care management. The applicant must also provide evidence that shows the work can be realistically accomplished; and address the complementarity of the proposed project with the applicant's preparation and experience to-date. The funds may be used to support related travel, data collection, translators, or other project expenses. Upon completion of the fellowship, the awardee is required to submit a written report describing their project and project experiences.

For this inaugural year of the Madoff Fellowship, the recipient is Alex Hoffman, BA/MPH Candidate. Alex will spend the next year creating and implementing a high school civic education curriculum focused on the United States Health Care System. The goal of the curriculum is to provide students with practical life-skills, to apply health care concepts to related fields, and to encourage active citizenship.

If you would like to contribute the Morton A. Madoff Fellowship, contributions can be sent: c/o Mr. Joshua Young, Development and Alumni Relations, Tufts University School of Medicine, Office of Development and Alumni Relations, 75 Kneeland Street, Boston, MA 02111

H. Jack Geiger Public Health Advocacy Award

As the result of a generous seed gift from Melanie Doupé Gaiser, MPH'07, an award honoring H. Jack Geiger has been established. The H. Jack Geiger Public Health Advocacy Award recognizes the extraordinary contributions to public health and social justice made by Dr. Geiger, a former Professor of Community Health at Tufts University School of Medicine.

The award is given annually to a graduating student or recent alumni from the Public Health Programs (MPH, MS-Health Communication and MS - Pain Research Education and Policy) who has demonstrated a body of work contributing to advocacy for public health and social justice. The award recipient will receive \$500 and a plaque.

The criteria for the Geiger Award is demonstration of a sustained body of work consistent with the definition of advocacy; commitment to lifelong advocacy and service; and initiative and independence. Applicants are asked in a brief essay to summarize their advocacy work and/or service and reflect on how they will build on it and integrate it into their careers.

The 2011 Geiger Award recipient is Aaron Marden, MPH'11, Aaron created and led a student health advocacy group, Student Health Organizing Coalition (SHOC). The group was conceived to advocate for change in the student health insurance system. The SHOC group was very active and one of their most notable accomplishments was getting state agencies to collect data on student health insurance plans, which resulted in the "The Student Health Insurance Program Baseline Report." The Baseline Report was instrumental in leading to a legislative hearing on a bill to revamp student health insurance in the State of Massachusetts.

If you would like to contribute to the H. Jack Geiger Public Health Advocacy Award, contributions can be sent: c/o Joshua Young, Development and Alumni Relations, Tufts University School of Medicine, Office of Development and Alumni Relations 75 Kneeland Street, Boston, MA 02111.

MS-Pain Research, Education & Policy Program: Looking Forward



Daniel Carr, M.D.

*Nicole Holland, DDS,
MS-Health Communication
Program Candidate*

The Tufts Master of Science Program in Pain Research, Education, and Policy (MS-PREP) and Certificate of Advanced Study in Pain Topics (C-PREP) have a new, or shall we say returning, director, Dr. Daniel Carr. If the name sounds familiar, that's because

the internationally known Dr. Carr is the founding director of the PREP program. After stepping down in 2004 to serve as the Chief Medical Officer of a startup pharmaceutical company, Dr. Carr remained an adjunct faculty member in the PREP program under the directorship of Dr. Richard Glickman-Simon. Recently, however, Dr. Carr resumed his role as Program Director after the startup company was acquired by a larger firm. By creating and nurturing the PREP program since its inception, Dr. Carr has played an integral role in its evolution and has big plans for its future.

Reflecting upon the last 10 years, Dr. Carr acknowledges that “a real awareness has developed...the burden of pain is so big, and it permeates so many things.” True to its mission, this program welcomes and attracts those from multiple disciplines with healthcare and non-healthcare backgrounds, and caters to students and professionals who want to know more about pain. “We are developing a community of people, and the idea of community is very important in the pain realm. The social aspects of pain are key,” says Dr. Carr. PREP’s coursework is modeled after a core curriculum set forth by the International Association for the Study of Pain. As a leader in his field, Dr.

Carr has been instrumental in shaping the dialogue surrounding pain. The MS-PREP program at Tufts is the first program of its kind in the United States. Since its initiation, this unique and multi-disciplinary program has differentiated itself from other programs (including clinical training programs) by focusing on pain research, education, and policy.

Although Dr. Carr would like to see enrollment growth in the short-term, he believes the future of this program is very bright. He would like to continue to train graduates who pursue the original mission of the PREP program: research, education, and policy. Dr. Carr states that “we are just now starting to see the first glimmers of students who have decided that they want work in the area of health policy, specifically as it relates to pain.” He also suggests health communication, as it relates to pain, as another area of potential synergy because much health policy concerning pain involves messaging. Additionally, pain is a global phenomenon, and according to Dr. Carr, growing numbers of policy makers, including the World Health Organization, consider pain management as a human right. As the number of graduates from this program continues to increase, their successes will impact the tremendous unmet need on local, national, and international levels. Dr. Carr asserts, as does Dr. Glickman-Simon, that the future of this program must involve distance-learning capabilities. As more people become aware of this program and the conversation surrounding pain continues to evolve, the program will continue to grow.

Currently, through Dr. Glickman-Simon’s efforts, the PREP program partners with New England School of Acupuncture to provide a joint program that provides acupuncture students an opportunity to gain further expertise in pain. Looking forward, Dr. Carr would like PREP to explore additional joint programs, develop international outreach, and advocate for the inclusion of pain education in training programs for all health professionals.

Aging with HIV in Massachusetts

Continued from p. 1

inhibition and increasing risky sexual behaviors and drug behaviors. The increased alcohol abuse in the older population may support the need for targeted substance abuse counseling and treatment to prevent HIV transmissions.

The importance in acknowledging HIV risk and seeking and providing screening and risk reduction counseling is paramount. This project acknowledges that secondary risk reduction counseling is occurring, but demonstrates a disparity according to

age in the receipt of such counseling, with older individuals receiving less. From early on in the epidemic, HIV has been a disease associated with being young and gay. The disease, however, is not selective and is transmitted through heterosexual sex, in females, and in the older population. This presents a challenge in reaching a population with a historically less evident risk profile. Continued research and the development of prevention and screening efforts is needed in order to encourage earlier testing, linkage to care, and reduced HIV transmissions in the Massachusetts population over fifty years old.

Faculty Notes

Continued from p. 7

ing and Learning to Support One Health Education in the Classroom and in the Field” (Albright S adn Mor SM)

J. David Naparstek, ScM, Adjunct Assistant Professor of PH&CM, has been elected chair of the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Massage Therapy. Professor Naparstek has campaigned to create statewide licensure of massage therapists for two decades. He noted that “the process of creating, promulgating, and enforcing statewide regulations has been far more complex than I had ever imagined.”

Christine Rioux, PhD, MS, Research Assistant Professor of PH&CM, on January 17, 2011 led a team of eight student scholars from Tufts, Harvard, Boston University and Roxbury Community College in organizing and presenting an interactive exhibit on traffic pollution and health at the Museum of Science as part of the larger exhibit “RACE: Are We That Different?”. Dr. Rioux spoke about the geography of risk and who is most vulnerable to the health effects of traffic pollution. Students, all part of the Community Assessment of Freeway Exposure and Health (CAFEH) study, led by **Doug Brugge, PhD, MS, Professor of PH&CM**, conducted a real-time (IRB-approved!) survey of museum visitors regarding pollution in their communities and conducted several other activities.

Anthony L. Schlaff MD, MPH, Professor of PH&CM, served as Policy and Practice track chair for the Annual Meeting of the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR), March 2011. He gave an oral presentation at the conference entitled, “Economic Externalities in Health and Health Policy.” Dr. Schlaff is also a member of the Board of APTR and will serve as President beginning in March 2012.

Public Health Rounds

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