

PITT  
**iiii PUBLIC HEALTH**



**BIG  
DATA**

**HEALTH  
LAW**

**DEAN'S  
SCHOLARS**

*and  
more*

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# DEAN'S MESSAGE



When the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health was founded in 1948, we had no permanent home. We spent those early years working in temporary quarters in what was then Pittsburgh Municipal Hospital—alongside the laboratory of Jonas Salk as he was beginning work on his polio vaccine. We then moved into our permanent building at the corner of Fifth Avenue and DeSoto Street in 1956, becoming a fixture in the heart of the Pitt campus.

When I became dean—a half-century later in 2006—our physical plant was sorely in need of an upgrade. We had grown from 34 entering students in that first class to nearly 700, and our research was growing exponentially. In 2011, with generous support from the Commonwealth, the University, and friends of the school, we embarked on Building for a Healthier World, an ambitious, over \$70-million, multiphase building and renovation project to expand our facilities, create up-to-date laboratories, and completely overhaul the building infrastructure.

I am delighted to report that now, after a six-year effort, we at Pitt Public Health have completed the task. We are ready for a healthy future in our newly expanded

home, a complex consisting of over 200,000 square feet of office and research space, including a state-of-the-art laboratory pavilion. In addition to updates to mechanical and electrical systems, plumbing, heating, cooling, and ventilation systems, we created new collaborative educational and meeting spaces to foster greater collaboration across our entire community. Our new first-floor café—which opened last fall alongside a large commons area—is bustling day and night. We now have newly renovated space to study, brainstorm, and hold poster sessions and orientations in addition to eating lunch and taking coffee breaks. We were also able to welcome back the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health to our main facility after nearly three decades off site.

Pitt Public Health now provides the modern physical environment suitable for our brilliant students and outstanding faculty and staff. The six wearying years of jackhammers, construction zone mazes, and office shuffles have been worth it. We are ready to recommit to our 70-year legacy of improving health across the life span, engaging partners around the globe, and realizing health equity for everyone.

In this issue of *Pitt Public Health*

magazine, we also take a look at the ongoing big data revolution and how Pitt Public Health researchers across the school are getting a grip on the data to effect change (see “Getting a Grip on Big Data,” page 2). We examine the health law innovations coming out of the Center for Public Health Practice, ranging from creating training for judges, to providing support for tribal governments, to enabling volunteers to respond to disasters (see cover story, page 12).

I look forward to seeing you all in March at our building rededication, alumni awards dinner, and alumni reunion (see page 11). As we “Celebrate 70,” we recognize our first 70 years of building a healthier world, not only here in Pittsburgh on the school grounds but also through the work of our nearly 7,000 dedicated alumni worldwide.

*Donald S. Burke*  
**Donald S. Burke**, dean •

Read Dean Donald S. Burke's *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* editorial, “We Didn't Lose the War on Drugs, We Surrendered” and his recent contribution to a *New York Times* panel on tackling the opioid epidemic titled “How a Police Chief, a Governor and a Sociologist Would Spend \$100 Billion to Solve the Opioid Crisis.” Both are available at [publichealth.pitt.edu/opioid](http://publichealth.pitt.edu/opioid).



# GETTING A GRIP ON BIG DATA

by Christine H. O'Toole

Fitbit. Alexa. SnapChat. 23andMe.

Technologies that simplify our lives and boost our productivity have created a tsunami of data that crested in 2017. We humans created more data last year than in the past 5,000 years. Public health research is shifting into hyperspeed, decoding information from human behavior, climate and environment, clinical records and volunteered data, the human genome, and the microbiome.

What fuels this ongoing revolution? The confluence of high-dimensional data, comprising thousands of variables, and high-velocity data—that is, vast quantities of information computed at the speed of light. While the promise of big data has been anticipated for decades, Pitt Public Health has already harnessed its potential in concrete, lifesaving projects—from impacting policy on measles immunization, to measuring air pollution, facilitating emergency response, and predicting mortality trends in opioid overdoses. Genetics researchers are comparing reports from personalized genetics companies to larger data sets to better understand chronic disease. Meanwhile, new faculty members in biostatistics are applying big data for insights on highly complex interactions in cancer, the microbiome, and human oscillatory systems.

“There’s big data in everything we do,” says



**Eleanor Feingold**, senior associate dean and professor of human genetics and biostatistics. “Some people think that big data means bigger traditional scientific data sets, some think it means government

databases, and others think about social media and consumer data. We’re finding public health

uses for every one of those,” says Feingold.

“The most exciting part is when we can combine those completely different

types of data for deeper insights, as in some of the school’s opioid projects.”

The 24/7 flow of Internet and social media



data is “relentless,” says **Saumyadipta Pyne**, incoming scientific director of the Public Health Dynamics Laboratory and associate professor of biostatistics. Pyne recognizes that “a vast amount

of the generated data may require dynamic, near real-time analysis. You can only store so much, so it’s a big concern: how to keep models updated and relevant,” says Pyne, whose research interests in India and the United States span the life sciences and health informatics, computational statistics, and high-dimensional data modeling (see sidebar, “FRED Adds Capabilities”).

Another concern is verifying the “almost voluntary” data supplied by individuals in transactions and Internet searches. Here, high-velocity data has yielded astonishing results. In a breakthrough study conducted by Microsoft last year, researchers mined large data sets of Bing search queries related to symptoms of pancreatic cancer. The results suggested that by analyzing large, anonymized samples of queries, researchers may be able to identify Internet users who are suffering from pancreatic cancer, even before they have received a diagnosis of the disease.

When county-level data sources prove inadequate to the task of researching the impacts of social and environmental community characteristics on substance use and related problems,



**Christina Mair**, assistant professor of behavioral and community health sciences, looks for greater geographic specificity in large administrative databases. For example, she turned to the Pennsylvania

Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4), which collects more than 1.9 million inpatient records per year, to obtain patient-level records for six years of hospitalizations statewide. This enabled Mair to measure at zip-code scale the geographic growth and spread of opioid use disorders and overdoses, while also identifying specific economic conditions and other attributes that facilitate the spread.

In the area of human genetics data, the DNA revolution sparked a shift in momentum, remarks Feingold. “Fifteen years ago, we developed ways to interrogate the whole genome. It changed the profession, from spending a life in the lab studying one gene to studying hundreds of thousands. Now we look at 50 million variations on one person’s genome and make sense of it.” Personalized DNA analysis firms like AncestryDNA and 23andMe have also become sources of anonymized data, thanks to the voluntary user questionnaire (see sidebar, “Earlobes and Data”).

Algorithms applied to mortality data at the local, state, and national levels are being used to



project the threat of behavioral health issues like the current opioid crisis. **Jeanine Buchanich**, associate professor of biostatistics, used the in-depth national Mortality Information and Research

Follow the Public Health Dynamic Laboratory’s latest modeling and simulation efforts at [phdl.pitt.edu](http://phdl.pitt.edu) and at [publichealth.pitt.edu/biostatistics](http://publichealth.pitt.edu/biostatistics).

Analytics (MOIRA) system, developed at Pitt Public Health, to forecast the epidemic's direction. In work funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, she examined accidental overdose data from 1979 to 2014, and found that fatal drug overdoses have doubled every eight years for the past 37. Unabated, a continuation of that trend would see U.S. opioid-related deaths rising to 90,000 a year by the middle of the next decade.

This prospect shocked the audience at the American Society of Public Health's 2017 meeting, when Dean Donald S. Burke presented the MOIRA findings.

"The numbers are very large," Buchanich acknowledges. "The converse is that there hasn't been evidence that it's *not* going to happen. There's no evidence that any intervention to date has bent the curve. So we stand by them. Hopefully we'll get attention from people who can put more resources [toward preventing overdoses]."

New areas of inquiry are enhancing the school's



big data muscle. **Shyamal D. Peddada**, who recently joined the biostatistics department as chair, employs high-dimensional data to parse the intricacies of the human microbiome and oscillatory

systems. Microbial complexity dwarfs even the human genome: While humans possess 20,000 genes, our bodies support anywhere from 2 to 20 million microbial genes. "We are mostly microbes," explains Peddada, who calls his inquiry "the new kid on the block." His research program includes study of gene expression and microbial compositions. Now he is applying data to understand how external factors—diet, environment, and chemical exposures—interact with internal ones. He calls the process "viewing through the kaleidoscope." He is also examining the genetic switches for circadian rhythms or oscillatory systems. This field of inquiry was spotlighted by the 2017 Nobel prize in physiology or medicine, awarded to three American scientists, Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash, and Michael W. Young, for their discoveries on the molecular mechanisms controlling circadian rhythms. ●

## FRED ADDS CAPABILITIES, ASKS NEW QUESTIONS

In Project Tycho, the Public Health Dynamics Lab (PHDL) created a way to mine a 127-year-old trove: the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System. PHDL's open-source approach to modeling data allows users not only to map historical disease outbreaks in the United States, but also to plan ahead for global health responses against epidemic threats such as the Ebola, Zika, and Dengue viruses. The lab's Framework for Reconstructing Epidemiological Data (FRED) is now successfully being applied to real-life crises, such as the 2014–15 Disneyland measles outbreak that threatened the state. California legislators credit FRED's measles infection simulations—easily displayed on mobile devices—as the visualization that convinced them to change laws on opting out of immunizations. As a result, more than 95 percent of California kindergartners received all required vaccines in 2016–17, a nearly three-point increase over the previous year and the highest rate since 2001–02.

FRED modeling is now expanding beyond infectious disease—for instance into projecting toxic air pollution plumes. An effort funded by the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities program estimated the clinical impact of heat and smog on different demographics within the city of Pittsburgh. Mindful of the Donora smog of 1948, which killed 20 people in the small mill town just south of Pittsburgh, emergency responders now have a model to predict how many instances of acute respiratory disease warranting a 911 call would occur in such an event. ●

## EARLOBES AND DATA

Even a simple biologic question—Are your earlobes attached or detached?—turns out to be a big data question as well, involving dozens of genes, according to a study published in the *American Journal of Human Genetics* by researchers from Pitt's departments of oral biology and human genetics.

This landmark study by **Seth M. Weinberg, John R. Shaffer, and Eleanor Feingold** compared data contributed by nearly 65,000 customers of the personal genetics company 23andMe with the researchers' more detailed measurements from almost 10,000 study subjects. In the smaller group, the researchers identified six genes that played roles in earlobe attachment. When the analysis was broadened to include the 23andMe participants, another 43 genes were added. The findings may lead to increased understanding of craniofacial deformities.

"The most important outcome is proof-of-principle—how to use these personal genomic companies' less formal data and combine it with more traditional scientific data," says Feingold. ●

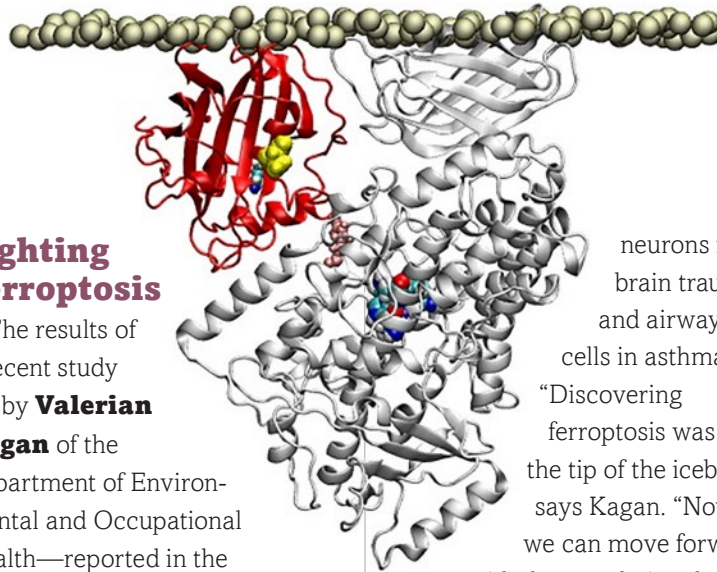
# IN BRIEF

## Fighting Ferroptosis

The results of a recent study led by **Valerian Kagan** of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health—reported in the journal *Cell*—just might lead to the development of drugs that will transform emergency and critical care treatment. Researchers are unlocking the complexities of a recently discovered cell death process called ferroptosis that plays a key role in health

Find out more about recent Pitt Public Health research stories and news at [publichealth.pitt.edu/news](http://publichealth.pitt.edu/news).

and disease. Kagan's team published two papers uncovering the signaling language cells use to initiate ferroptosis, which requires a group of naturally occurring oxidized phospholipids called OOH-phosphatidylethanolamines (OOH-PEs). When too many of these phospholipid signals are generated and too many cells die, the organs and tissues of the body can't function normally. The researchers used several cell culture experiments to demonstrate the specific roles of key proteins in driving ferroptosis in various diseases, such as in kidney cells during renal failure,



neurons in brain trauma, and airway cells in asthma. “Discovering ferroptosis was just the tip of the iceberg,” says Kagan. “Now we can move forward

with the translational work of finding ways to limit ferroptosis and prevent the massive cell death that leads to catastrophic organ and tissue failure.” ●

## Expanding Health

From smoking cessation to better access to health care for children, Medicaid expansion is contributing to better health. Research published in *Medical Care* found smokers who receive Medicaid show a higher rate of quitting than those that don't. According to **Marian Jarlenski**, assistant professor of health policy and management, and researchers at NORC at the University of Chicago, this could be due to increased access to preventative care and cessation aids. In addition

to the health benefits of quitting, researchers theorize that quitting also will reduce related health care costs, morbidity, and mortality.

Another study showed children whose parents have Medicaid are 29 percent more likely to get a physical each year. Department of Health Policy and Management health economist **Eric T. Roberts** calls this relationship a “spillover effect.” Since we know that low-income children don't go to the doctor as much as those from higher-income families, visits providing screenings and vaccinations are significant. “Giving parents health insurance improves care for all



family members, in that it facilitates access to the health care system,” said Roberts. “Physicians practicing in large, multigroup practices can see parents and children within the same practice. There are broad, spillover effects of providing coverage to parents that accrue to children.” ●

### Closer to a Cure

While antiretroviral therapies have progressed significantly, some amount of dormant virus persists in HIV patients. An important

step toward a cure is figuring out how to better detect the dormant virus. “Globally there are substantial efforts to cure people of HIV by finding ways to eradicate [the] latent reservoir of virus that stubbornly persists in patients, despite our best therapies,” said **Phalguni Gupta**, professor and vice chair of the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology. “But those efforts aren’t going to progress if we don’t have tests that are sensitive and practical enough to tell doctors if someone is truly cured.” Gupta

and his team created a new test that’s not only less expensive, less time consuming, and requires a smaller sample, it also can better detect stores of

the dormant virus. This new test shows promise for use in pediatric screenings as well as testing in the lymph nodes, due to its lower cell requirement. ●

### Hallen Chair

**Steven Albert**, chair of the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences, was appointed the Philip B. Hallen Endowed Chair in Community Health

[View photos and video of Steve Albert’s Hallen lecture at publichealth.pitt.edu/hallen.](http://publichealth.pitt.edu/hallen)

and Social Justice, based on his commitment to the recognition and celebration of human diversity; the critical examination of the causes of and the cures for racism, bigotry, and prejudice; and the formulation and testing of programs designed to prevent discrimination and to reverse its debilitating effects. Albert gave a lecture on his work to celebrate the achievement, stating, “If you change social determinants of health—things like housing, food access, or income security—you can improve health... If you change a social determinant, you can get a benefit in a health outcome.” Albert also noted other faculty’s work



in the department on interventions such as food access, problem-solving therapy, cash transfers and

To catch up with our most recent accomplishments, check in at [publichealth.pitt.edu/news](http://publichealth.pitt.edu/news).

health insurance, behavioral nudges, and decision aids tied to harm reduction. The chair was endowed in recognition of Philip Hallen, member of the school's Board of Visitors and former president of the Maurice Falk Foundation, where he worked for four decades on

minority issues, civil rights, and the continuing fight for racial justice. ●

### #YourHeartToo

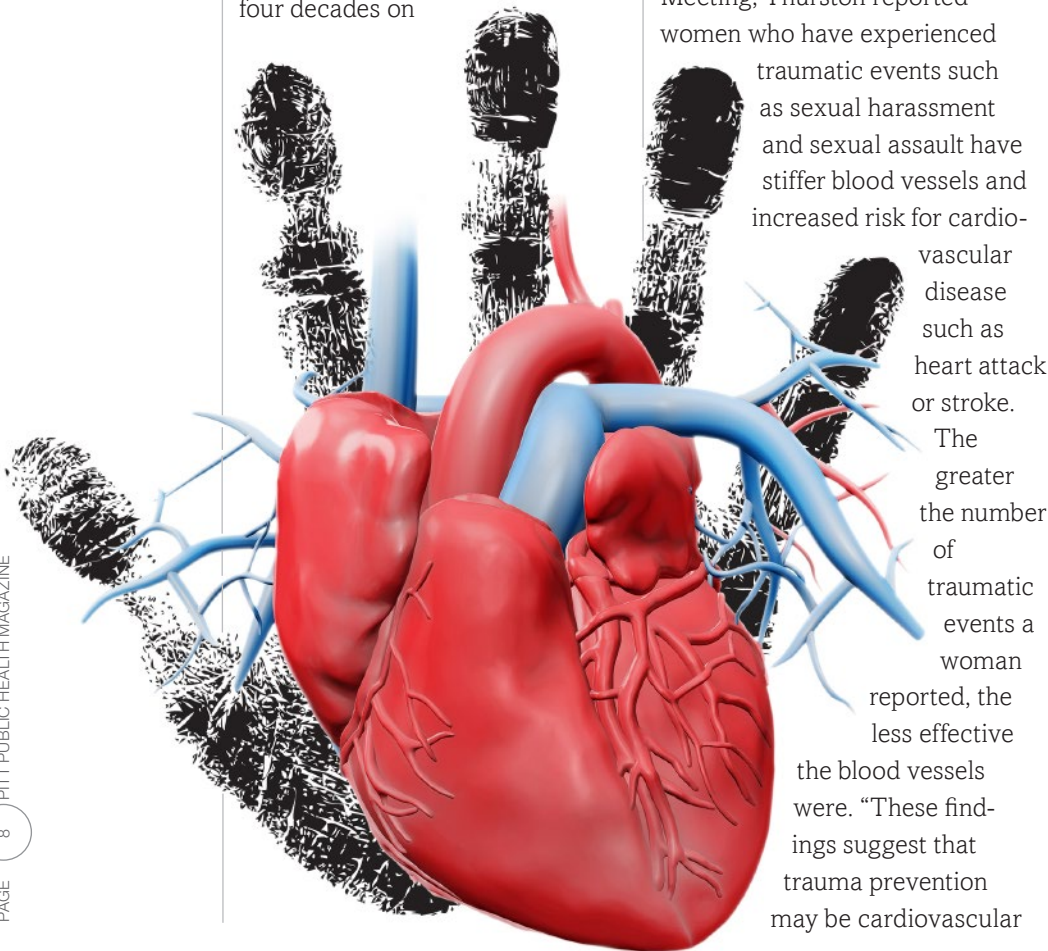
Sexual harassment might have long-term health consequences for women, including negative effects on heart health, according to research led by **Rebecca Thurston**, professor of epidemiology, psychiatry, and psychology. Speaking at the North American Menopause Society Annual Meeting, Thurston reported women who have experienced

traumatic events such as sexual harassment and sexual assault have stiffer blood vessels and increased risk for cardiovascular disease such as heart attack or stroke. The greater the number of traumatic events a woman reported, the less effective the blood vessels were. "These findings suggest that trauma prevention may be cardiovascular

risk reduction. When we think of cardiovascular disease prevention, we tend to think of biomedical risk factors such as lipids or blood pressure. We also need to think of psychosocial factors such as depression, anxiety, or trauma." The research team includes **Emma Barinas-Mitchell**, assistant professor of epidemiology. ●

### Street Outreach

"My strategy has always been to go to the source," **Richard Garland**, assistant professor and head of the Violence Prevention Initiative in the Center for Health Equity, recently told a local reporter who was interviewing him about addressing the rise in gun violence against children. Garland's primary information source is the street, and whether it's on foot or in an RV-turned-trauma-response vehicle, that's where he does his best work. Recently, Garland joined FOCUS Pittsburgh's Paul Abernathy, who was just awarded a grant from the Allegheny County Health Department to lead mobile trauma teams in immediately responding to local homicides. The all-volunteer teams provide onsite counseling and mental health services in the





first 48 hours after an event to family members and residents—including critical stabilization and help with transition to more long-term care. In addition to working with school officials to curb violent crime involving children and visiting gunshot victims in local hospitals, Garland also received a \$160,000 health department grant to focus on violence prevention through mediation and personal relationships with people in those neighborhoods hit hardest by gun violence. ●

## Novel Antibiotics

The National Institutes of Health awarded **Y. Peter Di**, associate professor of environmental and occupational health, a five-year grant for his group's research on developing a new class of antibiotics to effectively combat drug-resistant bacteria. Di is especially interested in how the antimicrobial milieu determines individual susceptibility to infection from exposure to multidrug-resistant bacteria. According to the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention, antibiotic-resistant infections are linked to 23,000 deaths and 2 million illnesses in the United States each year. Respiratory infections not only affect quality of life but also often result in life-threatening complications such as sepsis. The associated costs are tremendous—as high as \$20 billion in excess direct

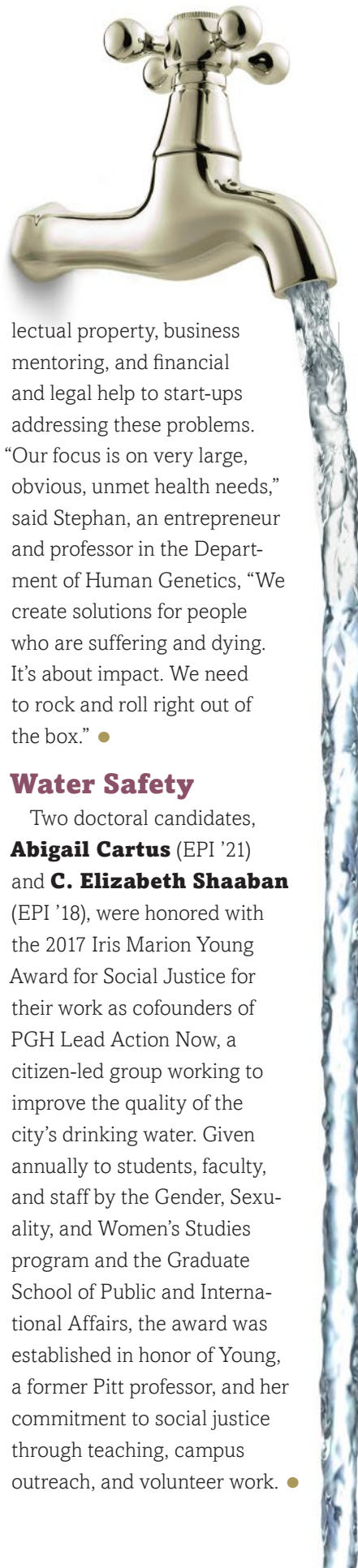
health care costs and as much as \$35 billion in lost productivity from hospitalizations and sick days. Di's group hopes to provide a novel, effective, and safe treatment for respiratory drug-resistant bacterial infection. ●





## LifeX

**Dietrich Stephan** will serve as CEO of the new Pittsburgh start-up business accelerator, LifeX. The company will work to leverage local strengths in the life sciences with the boost of private investors, bringing needed products to market faster. LifeX is building a \$25 million investment fund via a national fundraising effort going on through the summer. The initiative will aid in the development of technologies addressing cancer, Alzheimer's, and multidrug-resistant bacterial infections. Companies already planning to work with LifeX include Western Oncolytics, Sharp Edge Labs Inc., and Peptilogics Inc. LifeX also will provide legal counsel, including advice on intel-



lectual property, business mentoring, and financial and legal help to start-ups addressing these problems. "Our focus is on very large, obvious, unmet health needs," said Stephan, an entrepreneur and professor in the Department of Human Genetics, "We create solutions for people who are suffering and dying. It's about impact. We need to rock and roll right out of the box." ●

## Water Safety

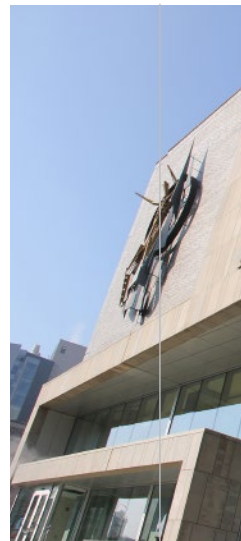
Two doctoral candidates, **Abigail Cartus** (EPI '21) and **C. Elizabeth Shaaban** (EPI '18), were honored with the 2017 Iris Marion Young Award for Social Justice for their work as cofounders of PGH Lead Action Now, a citizen-led group working to improve the quality of the city's drinking water. Given annually to students, faculty, and staff by the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies program and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, the award was established in honor of Young, a former Pitt professor, and her commitment to social justice through teaching, campus outreach, and volunteer work. ●

## Day of Giving

With generous support from students, alumni, faculty, and friends, we raised more than \$22,000 during the University's inaugural Day of Giving last February, coming in fourth among all Pitt's schools and colleges.

The Day of Giving is an opportunity to support what makes Pitt Public Health special to you. Whether you're passionate about education, research, clinical initiatives, or student programs, you may choose what to impact through your gift. Funding priorities include scholarships, facilities enhancements, and a fund for areas of greatest need, which provides the school with resources and flexibility to meet opportunities as they arise.

Join the entire Pitt Public Health community in support of the second Day of Giving on Pitt's Founder's Day, February 28, 2018. Participation is the primary goal again this year, so every gift counts! Visit [publichealth.pitt.edu/giving](http://publichealth.pitt.edu/giving) for details and to participate. ●



# Celebrate 70

PITT PUBLIC HEALTH  
1948-2018

## 70TH ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI REUNION AND BUILDING REDEDICATION CELEBRATION

Pitt Public Health's more than 6,800 alumni are invited to a celebration marking 70 years since the founding of the school.

Established in 1948 in response to the needs of industrial Pittsburgh, the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health is committed to realizing the World Health Organization goal that "Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely an absence of disease or infirmity."

Visit [publichealth.pitt.edu/celebrate70](http://publichealth.pitt.edu/celebrate70) for more information and to register for these anniversary-year events.

In conjunction with this global alumni gathering, the school will hold a rededication ceremony recognizing the completion of its six-year, over \$70-million "Building for a Healthier World" renovation and expansion project. With this investment, the school is uniquely equipped to fulfill its three-component mission of research, education, and service to benefit human health.

Join fellow alumni—outstanding practitioners, researcher scientists, policy makers, educators, and thought leaders from around the world—in proudly celebrating 70 years of public health leadership.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 16

- Alumni-Student Networking Breakfast
- Research and Practice Showcase
- 70th Anniversary Keynote and Rededication
- Alumni Awards and Recognition Dinner

### SATURDAY, MARCH 17

- Registration/Continental Breakfast
- Concurrent Continuing Education Sessions
  - Session 1: The Salk Legacy
  - Session 2: Local Impact Panel
  - Session 3: The Opioid Crisis
  - Session 4: Global Impact Panel
- Buffet Lunch
- Career Services "Office Hours"
- Building Tours
- Center and Departmental Open Houses and Workshops
- BaFa' BaFa': A Cross-cultural Simulation
- Class Reunions and Pittsburgh Activities ●

## New Digs

Pitt Public Health is nearing completion of its multiyear, over \$70-million expansion and renovation project. The most significant investment in the physical plant since its founding in 1948, the Building for a Healthier World initiative has funded the creation of new, state-of-the-art laboratories, academic areas, and communal spaces. As the spring term begins, the school is busy packing, relocating, unpacking, and settling into new spaces in anticipation of the upcoming rededication during the 70th Anniversary Alumni Reunion and Building Rededication Celebration taking place March 16–17, 2018. Plan to attend, and see the renovations in person. RSVP at [publichealth.pitt.edu/celebrate70](http://publichealth.pitt.edu/celebrate70). ●



# PUBLIC HEALTH LAW BOOSTS PREPAREDNESS

by Christine H. O'Toole

In disaster relief and in public health emergencies like the opioid epidemic, every minute counts. Legal guidelines developed by Pitt Public Health clarify life and death issues.



**RISKS  
AHEAD**



News accounts of the Puerto Rican hurricane aftermath and California wildfires flashed across the country in October, their severity underscored by a single acronym: FEMA. The federal agency's immediate involvement, invoked by the president, denotes crises too big for communities to handle. Since 9/11, a raft of emergencies has tested the nation's response, highlighting the need to clear obstacles both financial and legal to speed aid. Further complications arise as to which level of government is primarily responsible for emergency response—the feds, the state or local municipalities? Pitt Public Health is providing the public health law standards and training to make the wheels turn at each level.

“A few decades ago, health law covered businesses, bioethics, organ donations, and the right to die. And for issues like clean water, helmet laws, and seat belts, it was essential,” says **Tina Batra Hershey**, assistant professor of health policy and management and assistant director for law and policy at the Center for Public Health Practice (CPHP). “Now, the field demands strategies for preparedness, recovery, and response” as well.

The 2009 outbreak of the H1N1 virus prompted then-President Obama to declare a public health emergency. In a 2017 Presidential Memorandum, President Trump urged the Secretary of Health and Human Services to declare the opioid epidemic a public health emergency. Infectious disease response strategies commonly require legal decisions, such as quarantines and school closings. Similarly, behavioral health crises like the opioid epidemic also require specific legal mandates: for example, to indemnify first responders when administering naloxone. “In some cases, health law is a hammer—for example, in shutting down pill mills,” say Hershey. “But increasingly, it's becoming a shield” that protects rescuers.



## Safeguarding First Responders

**Elizabeth Van Nostrand**, associate director of CPHP and director of the school's JD/MPH program, broadly describes the center's area of expertise as informatics. "Our data is law. We build tools that provide legal summaries allowing users to make informed decisions. We can provide online visualizations, giving decision makers powerful tools to change policy."

Since 2007, Van Nostrand has worked on comprehensive software to help government officials and health workers analyze and compare emergency statutes, regulations, and policies. The Legal Network Analyzer (LENA), created in the Public Health Dynamics Laboratory, was the first online tool to map the network of responsibilities during an emergency, which are directed by 5,900 laws. "We asked: Who is legally obligated to work together?" explains Van Nostrand, who formerly practiced law in New Orleans, La.

LENA led Van Nostrand and the center to create the Emergency Law Inventory (ELI), a free online tool designed to clarify issues related to volunteers. By answering a series of online questions—"like TurboTax," says Van Nostrand—ELI users can find concise explanations of 1,500 legal summaries that might impact volunteer participation in disaster scenarios. Profession and jurisdiction filters tailor the explanations of liability, license reciprocity, scope of practice, and worker's benefits to individual interests. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services honored the CPHP and ELI teams with its 2017 National Partner Recognition Award for their contribution to the Medical Reserve Corps preparedness and local response missions.

## Emergency Law Training

As the center's reputation and services have grown, it has created a niche in interpreting emergency law and in training the judiciary and public health officials. Twelve training workshops, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), have been held for judges around the country since 2009. At these workshops, judges learn about their powers during public health emergencies. The trainings also include science primers, as judges "need to understand disease transmission," explains Hershey. "Ebola cases are transmitted by blood and are usually deadly. Tuberculosis doesn't have the same mortalities, but is more easily transmitted. There are different legal responses based on the science."

In addition, the center has crafted "bench books," or compilations of laws and legal procedures, for judges in Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, and Louisiana. The guidance untangles conflicting laws and mandates. Van Nostrand gives an example: "In the case of prescription databases that might provide evidence of opioid abuse, states have differing privacy laws. Interoperability (the ability of computers to share data across state lines) becomes crucial," she says.

The District of Columbia asked Hershey and the center to create a public health emergency law manual and training for government employees as well as the judiciary. "We're the nation's capital, with the same issues at probably a higher threat level than Pennsylvania, and we didn't have a tool for judges to put to work in an emergency. We were scrambling," says Marie-Claire

Find out more about the Emergency Law Inventory at [legalinventory.pitt.edu](http://legalinventory.pitt.edu), the Center for Public Health Practice at [cphp.pitt.edu](http://cphp.pitt.edu), and the Tribal Legal Preparedness Project at [tlpp.pitt.edu](http://tlpp.pitt.edu).



Brown, senior assistant general counsel for the D.C. Department of Health. “We wanted some people who actually had hands-on experience working with courts and doing the training. That’s where Elizabeth and Tina came in. I don’t know if anyone else was doing both law and science. They had a track record. That, to me, was the bridge.” To date, more than 200 D.C. professionals have completed emergency preparedness law 101. Brown is conferring with the CDC and the D.C. Bar Association, which provides continuing legal education to 46 states, to expand the program.

### **Tribal Health and the Law**

Since 2012, Hershey has tackled emergency preparedness issues related to Native Americans, as jurisdictional issues often arise among federal, state, local, and tribal governments. Although the 567 federally recognized tribes have the authority to create their own laws, many sovereign tribal governments have not exercised their public health authority by creating agencies or laws. Recent public health emergencies prompted the creation of the CPHP’s Tribal Legal Preparedness Project funded by the CDC.

“Tribes today need to be legally prepared,” explains Hershey. “They’re experiencing opioid abuse, mental health problems, and environmental issues related to gas and oil pipelines. They’re dealing with fracking issues, water issues, wildfires, and flooding. They need an inventory of legal responses.” As a result, the center anticipates releasing four new online training modules in spring 2018.



### **Delivering Innovation**

In December, the center’s Legal Triage product was honored as one of 15 technology-related start-ups by the University of Pittsburgh Innovation Institute, which promotes commercialization of discoveries licensed or optioned from the University. An outgrowth of ELI, this emerging software subscription service targets a need in telemedicine companies operating across state borders. “Instead of emergency preparedness, we are providing summaries that can answer other health-related questions,” explains Van Nostrand. “The possibilities are endless: employment law, hospital compliance, and so forth. We expect that the profits from Legal Triage can support ELI, to keep it open and free.” ●



## REMEMBERING A HEALTH LAW PIONEER, NATHAN HERSHEY

Nathan “Nat” Hershey’s death marked the passing of an era at the University of Pittsburgh. An intellectual force and superb teacher during decades of service at Pitt, Hershey died on April 15, 2017, in Austin, Texas, due to complications from a fall. He was 86.

Hershey played an integral role in founding the modern-day field of health law, which regulates what is now the nation’s largest industry. After earning a JD from Harvard Law School in 1953, Hershey served in the Army as well as at a New York law firm. He joined Pitt as an assistant research professor of health law in 1958, and in 1968, was named director of the health law training program. He was appointed professor of health law in the Department of Health Policy and Management in 1971.

Hershey coauthored the *Hospital Law Manual*, which for more than 40 years has been the definitive guide to the legal responsibilities and liabilities of health care providers. It was the first codification of health policy law and ultimately would form a critical part of what is today the LexisNexis database, the world’s largest electronic database for legal and public-records-related information.

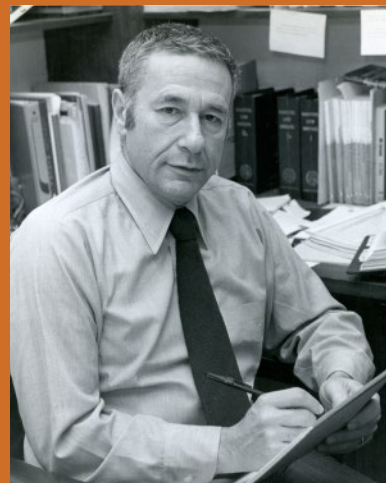
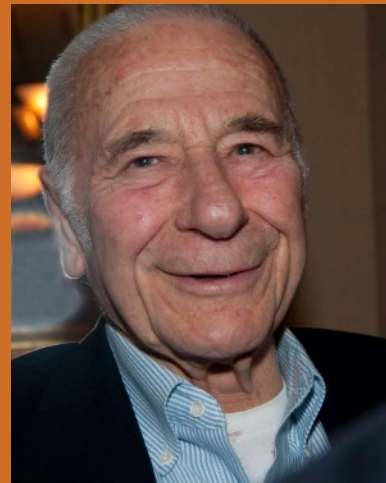
Among his many publications were *Hospital Law Manual*, *Human Experimentation and the Law* (1976) and *Hospital-Physician Relationships: Case Studies and Commentaries on Medical Staff Problems* (1982). Hershey also was an elected member of the Institute of Medicine at the National Academy of Sciences.

Pitt Public Health alumni who were fortunate enough to count themselves among Hershey’s many students remember him as larger than life and an outstanding teacher. “We were absolutely in awe—our teacher was the guy who created the health law field,” said Mike Evans (HPM ’80), managing principal of Revenue Cycle Solutions LLC. “He was a brilliant, great teacher.”

Becky Surma (HPM ’81), a member of Pitt Public Health’s Board of Visitors, echoed that sentiment. “All of us have teachers that we remember very fondly who make a difference in our lives. Nat was one of those,” she said. “He really challenged every one of us to think outside the box, to not be complacent, to say ‘Let’s examine this from all sides.’ He was very demanding, very challenging.”

Hershey earned a reputation not only as a valued and dedicated professor but as a force at the highest levels of faculty administration at Pitt, serving on the University Senate for 20 years. He spent the maximum three terms each as vice president and president and—never afraid to be a “thorn in the side” of University leadership when it came to faculty concerns—championed the Senate’s role as an equal partner in campus decisions.

“He was a giant on campus because he was willing to stand up for the faculty,” said Eleanor Feingold, senior associate dean. “Whatever issue was contentious on campus, Nat was out there making sure the leadership knew how the faculty felt about it.” ●



Legal pioneers Springer, Hershey, and Harty pictured (center) at a 2013 computational law workshop.

To learn how Nathan Hershey—and fellow Pitt Health Law Center innovators John Harty and Eric Springer—first tapped the potential of computers to tackle overwhelming volumes of legal information, check out “Pioneers in Computerized Legal Research: The Story of the Pittsburgh System,” by Tina Batra Hershey and Dean Donald Burke, in the current edition of the *Pittsburgh Journal of Technology Law & Policy*. Visit [publichealth.pitt.edu/hershey](http://publichealth.pitt.edu/hershey) to find out more and to meet Manasa Pallapolu and Molly Shiflet, two current HPM students who are recipients of Nathan Hershey scholarships—and learn how you can help continue to honor Hershey’s unparalleled legacy by supporting students like them.

(Editor’s note: Tina Batra Hershey is no relation to Nathan Hershey.)

# STUDENT STORIES

by Kelly Sjol



Just a few of our current Dean's Scholars! Back row: **JoAnna Shaw** (IDM '18), **Kristina Boyd** (BIOST '19), **Alyson Harding** (EPI '19), **Amanda Everman** (HUGEN '18), **Eva Chernoff** (MMPH '19). Front row: **Mikaela Kosich** (EPI '19), **Sarah Sanders** (BCHS '18), **Ashley Simenson** (EPI '19), **Chandler Caufield** (HPM '20).

Established in 2015, the Dean's Public Health Scholars program supports outstanding master's-level students by providing 50 percent off tuition for up to two years of full-time study. "The Dean's Scholars program helps us to attract the best and brightest," says Cindy Bryce, associate dean for student affairs and associate professor of health policy and management. "Especially in these challenging economic times, we hope it will encourage top candidates nationwide to take a closer look at Pitt Public Health." Get to know a bit about three of our scholars below and find out more at [publichealth.pitt.edu/scholars](http://publichealth.pitt.edu/scholars).

## Megan Hoenig

“Pitt checked every single box.”

Megan Hoenig (HUGEN '19) was looking for a graduate program that had it all: a solid reputation; cutting-edge scholarship; myriad in-clinic opportunities; a congenial, supportive environment; and an exciting location. The Plano, Texas, native and graduate of Texas A&M University with a degree in genetics and biomedical sciences found all that and more at Pitt Public Health.

“I chose Pitt Public Health because of the genetic counseling program,” she says. “It’s the second oldest GC program in the country but is always up to date with the latest in the field. When I first visited Pitt, I could feel the collaborative nature of the students and the interest the faculty have for their students to succeed as individuals—and I knew I made the right choice.”

Hoenig is thankful for her Dean’s Scholar award and says without it she could not have pursued a dual MS degree as well as a Master of Public Health, which she believes will help her to have a broader impact on patient care.

## Eva Chernoff

Raised in Pittsburgh by an African American mother and Jewish father who studied culture in West Africa, Eva Chernoff (MMPH '19) says her dinner table frequently played host to international and intercultural gatherings.

“I was raised not to think of myself in terms of ethnicity but rather to have my own experiences,” she says. These experiences—including earning a degree in psychology-neuroscience with a minor in human development and family studies from Penn State University, attending medical school, and traveling to the Philippines to research infectious disease and public health—“have influenced my career motivations toward clinical practice

among diverse, underserved populations affected by the social determinants of health.”

Chernoff hopes to learn more about community-based participatory research and qualitative research methods to create interventions focusing on mental health in adolescents and children.

## Peter Lewellen

“What more impactful field is there than public health? Everyone wants and deserves to be healthy, so trying to help others achieve that desire is one of the most rewarding things anyone could do,” says Peter Lewellen (HPM '18).

He was drawn here particularly because Pitt Public Health summer residencies don’t necessitate traveling across the country—there are an abundance of opportunities right in Pittsburgh.

Read about additional Dean’s Scholars at [publichealth.pitt.edu/scholars](http://publichealth.pitt.edu/scholars).

Furthermore, Lewellen cites Pitt Public Health’s competitive extended residency option. Students begin their residency in their first year and continue it the second year, putting in the standard three months of full-time work during the summer: “The ability to see projects through to completion in the extended residency was a major selling point to me as a way to gain valuable experience,” he says.

## How You Can Help

Even small contributions really add up when it comes to supporting scholarships at Pitt Public Health—your gift helps to attract the most promising future public health professionals. Learn how to support the next generation of public health leaders by contacting [phgive@pitt.edu](mailto:phgive@pitt.edu) or 412-624-5639, or by visiting [publichealth.pitt.edu/giving](http://publichealth.pitt.edu/giving). ●

# ALUMNI PROFILE: Bill Sollecito

by Kelly Sjol

“The phrase ‘If you can make it here, you can make it anywhere,’ certainly applies to me,” says Brooklyn, N.Y., native Bill Sollecito; however, he contends, it was the formative year he spent in Pittsburgh and at Pitt Public Health that in many ways made him—both personally and professionally—who he is today.

Sollecito (MSHyg BOST, '70) originally planned to work on Wall Street upon graduating from what is now Baruch College with a degree in business statistics, but three factors intervened to cause him to completely change course and, ultimately, the trajectory of his career. One: A fellow statistics student who had done an internship at the New York City Department of Health advised him to

Discover other alumni stories at [publichealth.pitt.edu/alumni-stories](http://publichealth.pitt.edu/alumni-stories).

consider public health, specifically biostatistics, because it was “focused on solving

health problems and was much more interesting” than business statistics. Two: He was about to be married, and he and his soon-to-be wife Michele were ready to leave New York to take on new adventures in a new city. Three: It was the 1960s.

“Many of us in that generation were looking for ways to contribute to mankind, to give back,” he says. “I was looking for somewhere different, with a good school of public health, and Pittsburgh met that requirement. It was an ideal setting.”

What followed during his time in the master’s program in the Department of Biostatistics shaped Sollecito—who would later go on to earn his DrPH; help to found the multibillion-dollar, global clinical research company Quintiles (now IQVIA); and return to academia as clinical professor and director of the Public Health Leadership Program at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health—in three distinct ways.

The first was it provided inspiration. Everyone

from the faculty to his classmates to the people of Pittsburgh inspired him, Sollecito says.

“Coming from a blue-collar background, I was very interested in occupational health,” he says. “That interest and passion were also tied to the environmental health movement that was beginning around that time. There were very strong faculty in occupational health and biostatistics throughout the school, people like Philip Enterline, C.C. Li, and my advisor, Sati Mazumdar. I was inspired by them and the research and work they were doing.”

Now emeritus professor of biostatistics, Mazumdar still recalls Sollecito’s master’s thesis on steelworkers’ exposure to coke oven emissions—written before there were OSHA laws and regulations around such things—which she and coauthor Carol Redmond cited in one of the largest epidemiological studies of coke oven workers’ mortality, published in 1975. “He had a very unique, handwritten data set of coke oven emissions measures,” Mazumdar says. “When I left the school, I threw out most of my old files. But I kept the one that said ‘Bill Sollecito.’”

The second was it provided vision. Sollecito says he developed his personal vision—one that would guide him throughout his career—at Pitt Public Health.

“Nowadays I focus more on leadership development than statistics, so I understand and teach the importance of vision,” he says. “My personal vision was all about wanting to be involved in the studies and breakthroughs that would help people. Whether that was through occupational health or later in my career with novel drug development, I was doing it to help people, to find new treatments that would be beneficial.”

Sollecito now teaches leadership to biostatisticians, clinicians, and public health practitioners,

helping them to be better, more effective leaders of their departments and organizations. He says he honed at Pitt Public Health what he now teaches his students, which is the need to have a personal vision and how to match their personal vision with that of the organization they're looking to join.

Finally, Pitt Public Health gave him the confidence that comes from having the ability to communicate clearly across boundaries—not only with those in different disciplines but also different cultures. This skill served Sollecito well at Quintiles, which grew rapidly from five consultants in the 1980s, to a U.S. company serving the pharmaceutical industry, to a global corporation employing 5,000 at the time of his departure as president of the Americas division.

“That’s where the written and verbal communication skills that I developed at Pitt became critical,” he says. “When you’re talking to physicians in the pharmaceutical industry, you have to be able to explain things in a very straightforward manner, because they aren’t necessarily trained as statisticians. At Pitt I worked on projects with people from all different backgrounds—epidemiology, health policy, environmental health—and I learned the importance of interdisciplinary teamwork as well as the need to understand other cultures. This was vital to the success of Quintiles.”

Sollecito has returned to Pitt to present on incorporating leadership training in public health at the master’s level, most recently for the 2014 alumni reunion, where he caught up with Mazumdar. She warmly recalls visiting with her former student and learning about his life and career after leaving Pittsburgh.

“Bill expanded—beyond theoretical statistics—in all different directions,” Mazumdar says. “His leadership approach is not very common. Looking at all of his achievements, you don’t see that in many statisticians. His accomplishments are unique.”

Sollecito says he still learns every day, especially from the feedback he gets from his students, who themselves are practitioners.

“Pitt really helped me to develop a thirst for knowledge, to want to be a lifelong learner,” he says. “At Pitt, I loved every course. It really opened up the world of public health to me and made me want to learn as much as I could.” ●



ROY RICE

# ALUMNI NEWS

## Updates

**Katie Baric** (BCHS '17) is cofounder of global nonprofit Hands on Peru, whose mission is to “improve access to medical care for disempowered and marginalized populations in Trujillo, Peru,” through hosting international volunteers, patient care, and health campaigns.

**Christopher Taylor** (EPI '10), currently an epidemiologist for the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion division of the CDC in

Atlanta, Ga., was featured in *The New York Times* for his work outside

the lab on incredible, edible creations. Most recently, Taylor’s checkerboard peanut butter pie earned Best in Show, Amateur Division honors at the American Pie Council championship.

**Dacia Beard** (BCHS '11) has been installed as the new public health voice on an alumni committee representing all of Pitt’s schools, colleges, and regional campuses.

**Mary Patricia Nowalk** (EPI '81, '93), along with BCHS faculty Mary Hawk, Ed Ricci, Richard Zimmerman and the rest of the Pitt Vaccine Research

Group (PittVax), received the Adult Immunization Publication Award, presented during the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit, May 10, in Atlanta, Ga.

**Ann Marie McNamara** (IDM '87) was named vice president of food and essentials safety and quality assurance for Target Corp. in Minneapolis, Minn. McNamara previously served in key leadership positions at Jack in the Box, Silliker, Sara Lee, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. ●

## Career News

**Brianna McDonough** (BCHS '14) is now training coordinator for the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy Program Evaluation and Research Unit. She joins nine current students and alumni working in the lab directed by **Janice Pringle** (INDHyg '81, EPI '86), professor of pharmacy and therapeutics.

**Anthony DeFurio** (HADM '89) has been tapped after a nationwide search to serve as executive vice president and CFO of Charlotte, N.C.-based Carolinas HealthCare System.

**Alan C. Utter** (EPI '95) has been named provost and VP for academic affairs at Texas Woman’s University. Utter previously served as interim VP for research and professor

in the Department of Health, Leisure, and Exercise Science at Appalachian State University.

**Patrick Mutch** (HADM '78) was announced as Chase Brexton Health Care’s new president and CEO, overseeing a five-network system in Maryland.

**Shirlene Tolbert-Moten** (CHS '93) has been named medical director of outpatient physician practice for Cape Regional Physicians Associates, a multi-specialty medical group servicing 13 Cape May, New Jersey, locations. Tolbert-Moten previously served as the medical director and CEO of Southside Family Practice in Petersburg, Va.

**Betsy Johns** (MMPH '99) has joined Stormont Vail Health in Topeka, Kan., where she will practice as a family medicine physician.

**Nilofar “Nellie” Jafar** (MMPH '16) has been named the Congressional Healthcare Policy Fellow at Virginia Commonwealth University. Jafar will gain real-world insight into health care policy analysis and development via immersion in Congress and the government affairs offices of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

**Robert Henkel** (HPM '82) has stepped down as executive

Have professional news to share?  
We'd love to hear from you.  
E-mail [phalum@pitt.edu](mailto:phalum@pitt.edu).



vice president of Ascension and president and CEO of the health care division at Ascension, the country's largest faith-based nonprofit health care system. These shoes are now filled by **Patricia Maryland** (HPM '82), with responsibility for more than 141 hospitals and 2,500 sites of care spanning 24 states and D.C. ●

## Recognitions

**Natalie Bulger** (HPM '12), director of compliance, risk, and regulatory at the Children's Institute of Pittsburgh, was named to *Pittsburgh Magazine's* 40 Under 40 list. Bulger is vice president of the HPM Alumni Association and holds a leadership position in the Pittsburgh ACHE chapter.

**Tyler Rubright** (EOH '15), was named analyst of the year by the Office of Land and Emergency Management, recognizing his work advancing the Sustainable Materials Management Program. Rubright is a biologist for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**Laura Griffin** (HPM '13) was honored by the *Pittsburgh Business Times* in its 30 Under 30 list. Griffin is director, network nursing operations, for Allegheny Health Network.

**Janice Dorman** (HUGEN '81, EPI '83) was the 2017 recipient of the Pitt School of Nursing Dean's



2017 Alumni Award honorees: **Mary Ganguli, Michael Walsh, Eric Hulsey, Anette Fetchko, Tammy Haley, Laura Gieraltowski, and Diane Howard**, with Dean Donald Burke

Distinguished Teaching Award. Dorman has taught at that school and at Pitt Public Health for 30 years, focusing on molecular epidemiology and genetics.

**Samantha (Malone) Rubright** (BCHS '09, EOH '16) was named one of 20 Pioneers Under 40 in Environmental Public Health by the Collaborative on Health and the Environment. Rubright has been the manager of communications and partnerships for FracTracker Alliance and recently started a new position as consultant at Science Communication Network.

**Diego Chaves-Gnecco** (MMPH '00), associate professor at Pitt's School of Medicine and founding director of the program SALUD Para Niños at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, is the first Latino pediatrician to receive the F. Edwards Rushton CATCH Award at the American

Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition. The award honors pediatricians who collaborate with communities to increase children's access to health care. ●

## Alumni Awards

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

- For Practice: **Eric Hulsey** (BCHS '08), Allegheny County Department of Human Services, and **Michael Walsh Jr.** (HPM '04), 25 Strategies and the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
  - For Research: **Mary Ganguli** (EPI '81), University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
  - For Teaching and Dissemination: **Tammy Haley** (MMPH '13), University of Pittsburgh at Bradford
- MARGARET F. GLONINGER SERVICE AWARD: **Annette Fetchko** (HSA '84), Center for Inclusion Health

## EARLY CAREER

### EXCELLENCE AWARD:

#### **Laura B. Gieraltowski**

(EPI '09), Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF SERVICE:

#### **Diane Howard** (HPM '79)

was honored for her four years of service as Pitt Public Health representative to the Pitt Alumni Association.

### DELTA OMEGA ALUMNI AND FACULTY INITIATES:

#### **Nancy W. Glynn** (EPI '94)

#### **Leah M. Lamonte** (IDM '06)

#### **Natalie A. Solomon-Brimage** (BCHS '06)

#### **Christopher A. Taylor** (EPI '10) ●

## Events

This year Pitt Public Health hit the road, visiting alumni both in their home regions and for conferences and events across the nation. At each event, alumni heard updates on the school and met with faculty, administrators, and students.

In March, representatives visited Chicago, Ill., for the American College of Healthcare Executives conference, then Washington, D.C., for Pitt Public Health's annual reception during the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health convention. Additional alumni events were held in Atlanta, Ga., for the American Public Health Association annual meeting, and in downtown Pittsburgh, coinciding with the annual meeting of the National Association of County and City Health Officials. Departments also hosted alumni events in conjunction with key national

conferences, including receptions in Columbus, Ohio; Orlando, Fla.; and Pasadena, Calif.

A record 31 alumni representing all seven departments participated in the annual Alumni-Student Networking Breakfast. They spent the morning with current students to discuss career paths and opportunities.

The Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences hosted its first-ever alumni symposium this last year. Alumni representing a variety of industries spoke with more than 40 prospective and current students. Speakers included **Elana Barkowitz** (BCHS '11), health coach for UPMC Health Plan; **Jennifer Jones** (BCHS '11), community engagement coordinator for Pitt's Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute; **Melissa Knorr** (BCHS '16), operations manager at The Open Door, Inc.; **TaylorDaphne Morsillo** (BCHS '16) of Plan for a Healthier Allegheny at the Allegheny Health Department; **Katharine Horowitz** (BCHS '12), vice president for education at Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania; and **Mara Leff** (BCHS '15), program associate for the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. Find videos of the presentations at [publichealth.pitt.edu/bchs-alumni-stories](http://publichealth.pitt.edu/bchs-alumni-stories).

Fall 2017 brought alumni back to campus for the Bridging the Gaps 20th anniversary celebration. Past program participants were invited to view current student projects and a special documentary video to commemorate the day.

In October, the school hosted a career fair exclusively for Pitt Public Health students. Ten alumni were among the enthusiastic

recruiters taking part: **Trina Thompson** (CHS '97, EPI '06), 1889 Jefferson Center for Population Health; **Annie Nagy** (IDM '10), Allegheny County Health Department; **Katie Holler** (BCHS '16), Consumer Health Coalition; **Jordan Taradash** (EPI '12), Innovative Wellness Solutions; **Angela Fox** (MMPH '01), Innovu; **Mara Leff** (BCHS '15) and **Ashley Chung** (IDM '16), Jewish Healthcare Foundation; **Michael Meit** (CHS '94), NORC at the University of Chicago; **Shannon Kearney** (EOH '01, '10), Pitt Pharmacy's Program Evaluation and Research Unit; and **Cara Nikolajski** (BCHS '07), UPMC. ●

## Get Involved

The 2018 alumni awards and recognition ceremony is scheduled for the evening of March 16 during the Celebrate 70 alumni reunion weekend. Check the mail for your invitation and RSVP at [publichealth.pitt.edu/celebrate70](http://publichealth.pitt.edu/celebrate70).

The 2018 Alumni-Student Networking Breakfast will also be held March 16. Sign up by March 1 to participate at [publichealth.pitt.edu/networkingbreakfast](http://publichealth.pitt.edu/networkingbreakfast).

Alumni, their families, school friends, and the public are invited to read along with this year's One Book One Community selection: Siddhartha Mukherjee's *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*. Whether you plan to read the entire book or focus on certain sections, you're welcome to join the live and virtual discussions, events, and special reader updates. Sign up at [publichealth.pitt.edu/oboc-read-along](http://publichealth.pitt.edu/oboc-read-along). ●

## Love the Pics?

Check our public Flickr albums at [publichealth.pitt.edu/flickr](http://publichealth.pitt.edu/flickr). ●



**Rob Curry** hosted HPM grads and faculty at his Pasadena, Calif., home last June. Clockwise from top: David Tye, **Mark Meyers** (HADM '77), Daren Meyers, **Rob Curry** (HADM '79), **Wen-Ta Chiu** (EPI '87, '89), **Kristin Lazzara** (HADM '95), Kevin Broom, and Mark Roberts (department chair).



In July, more than 60 alumni and current students—including **Patra Chun-On** (EOH '18) and **Fiona Gao** (BCHS/GSPIA '18)—met for an informal social at Johnny Merlot's during the annual conference of the National Association of County and City Health Officials in downtown Pittsburgh.



In March, **Andrew Althouse** (EPI '13), **Natalie Bulger** (HPM '12), **Christina Wilds** (CHS '97, BCHS '06), **Shaina Stacy** (EOH '12, '15), and (not shown) **Barbara Hanusa** (BIOST '90) advised decision makers during Accepted Applicants Day.



These alumni have reunited in a different place every year, last summer in coastal Maine (left to right): **Carolyn Byrnes** (EPI '11), **Sarah Loch** (EPI '11), **Nicole Nestler** (BCHS '11), **Kelsey Allen** (BCHS '12), **Kathleen Creppage** (EPI '11), and **Jessica Suchy** (BCHS '12).



**HEALTH IS A STATE OF COMPLETE PHYSICAL, MENTAL, AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING AND NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF DISEASE OR INFIRMITY.**

— preamble to the constitution of the World Health Organization, 1948

## WHAT'S YOUR DEFINITION OF HEALTH?

Tell us what defines what you do every day! We'll share your words and pictures on social media and during the 70th anniversary celebration and alumni reunion. Send your personal definition of health, or what public health means to you:

- **E-MAIL** a picture with a one-line caption, or your short definition (10 words or less) to phalum@pitt.edu, or
- **TWEET AND TAG** with #Celebrate70 and @PittPubHealth. ●

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**Join us for the Pitt Public Health  
70th Anniversary Alumni Reunion  
and Building Rededication Celebration  
March 16–17, 2018**

Celebrate the history and future of public health education, practice, and research at Pitt Public Health during our second-ever, all-classes alumni reunion featuring a grand celebration marking 70 years since

the founding of the school. Find details on page 11 or at [publichealth.pitt.edu/Celebrate70](http://publichealth.pitt.edu/Celebrate70).

#Celebrate70 @PittPubHealth •