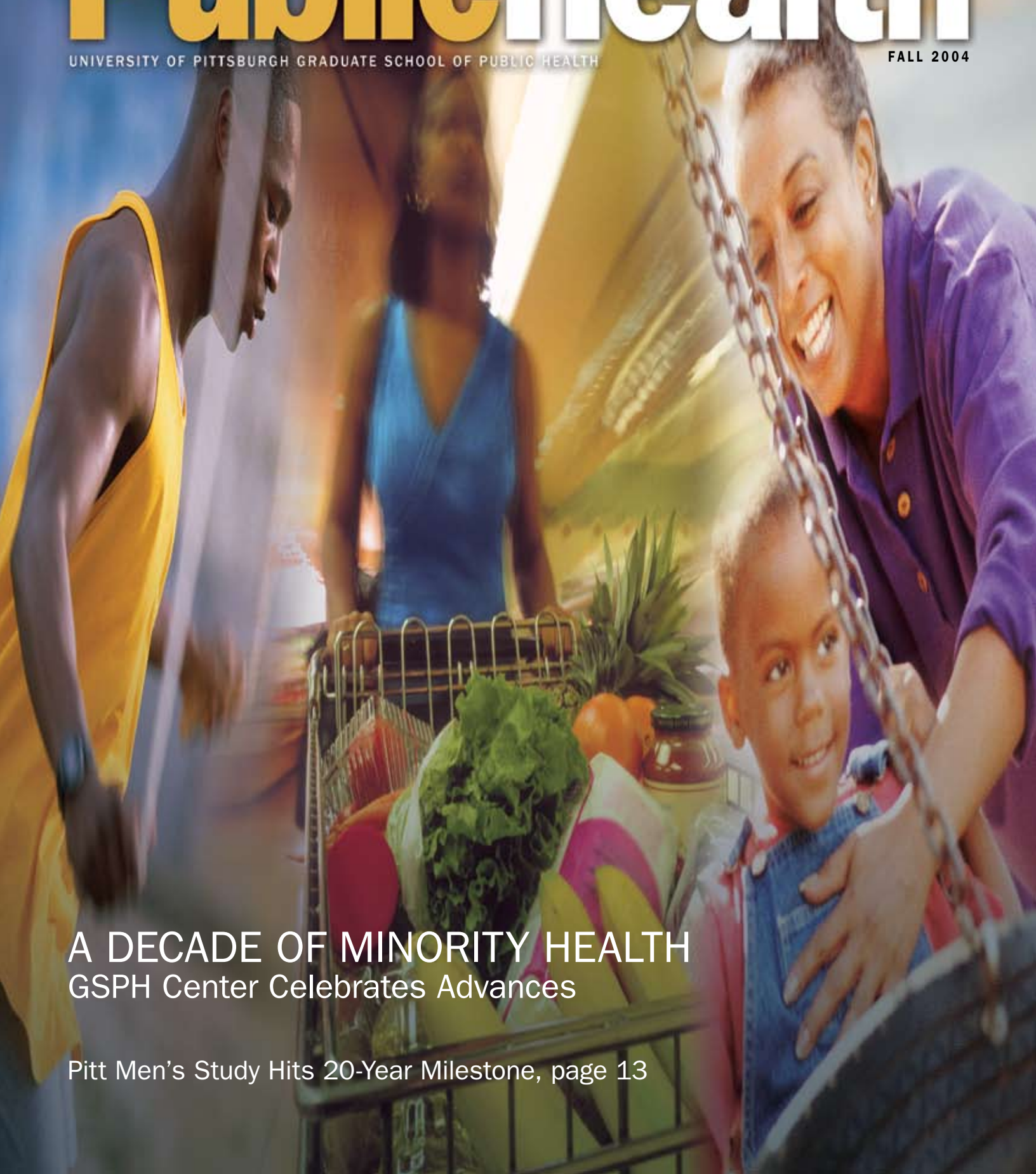


PublicHealth

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

FALL 2004



A DECADE OF MINORITY HEALTH
GSPH Center Celebrates Advances

Pitt Men's Study Hits 20-Year Milestone, page 13

PublicHealth

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Graduate School of Public Health

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PublicHealth

FALL 2004

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Dean's Message

Midway through the fall semester, I am pleased to report that we are continuing to see an increase in those choosing public health as a career—and in the role of public health as a dynamic part of modern society. I am happy to announce that in response to the challenges facing public health, Senior Vice Chancellor Arthur Levine has recently committed to invest \$1 million in initial recruitment support for tenure-stream junior faculty during the next year.

It is gratifying to report that GSPH's student enrollment is still on the rise—up more than 25 percent in the past three years. Research funding also continues to rise dramatically. The latest figures from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) show that we are now third among all schools of public health in both total NIH funding and research grant funding. Because the two schools ahead of us, Johns Hopkins and Harvard, are both private schools, we can again claim the top spot among state-related schools of public health.

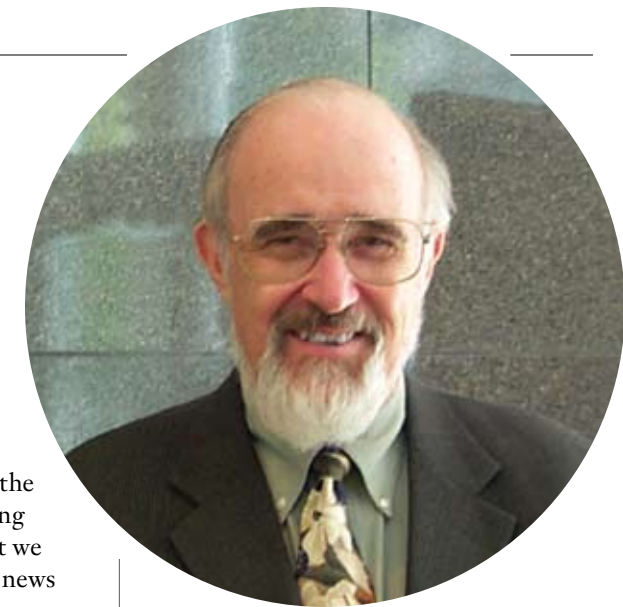
The outreach and scholarly accomplishments of our community public health programs are also a particular source of pride. These programs are located in specialized centers such as the Center for Minority Health, the Center for Public Health Practice, and the Center for Healthy Aging; and they are integral parts of our academic departments, such as the Pitt Men's Study (of the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology), which recently marked its 20th anniversary.

I am also pleased to report some positive developments for GSPH on the facilities end, including the expansion of our Epidemiology Data Center, renovation of the dean's office suite, an increase in lab space for the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, and further remodeling of Parran and Crabtree Halls. The expansion of our programs has led to an increased need for space—we are now renting more space in Oakland than

we have available in Parran and Crabtree Halls. Fortunately, there is increasing recognition of the importance of providing additional space for GSPH, and the University will soon be embarking on a ten-year planning cycle that we hope will bring even more good news for our school.

More schools of public health are developing and expanding across the nation, including in our region. I especially want to note the pre-accreditation of the Drexel University School of Public Health in Philadelphia and let you know that cooperative programs linking our two schools are moving forward. These types of collaborations are particularly important in Pennsylvania, which ranks last in the per capita size of its public health workforce. Calvin Johnson, the secretary of health for our commonwealth, visited GSPH recently to make sure our students were aware of Pennsylvania's tremendous need for a trained workforce. It is estimated that about 35 percent of the state-employed public health workforce will be retiring in the next few years, leaving many opportunities for our graduates.

In the past months, GSPH has had the opportunity to work with the state on several specific projects, including the Pennsylvania Asthma Summit that GSPH hosted during the summer. Despite the dire predictions of many, including me, as to the potential turnout in mid-August, we had more than 250 people attend the event. This reflects the importance of asthma as a public health problem, as well as the hard work of Lois Michaels and many others who were responsible for the great success of this project. Earlier this year, the Pennsylvania Department of Health awarded approximately \$2.1 million to GSPH's Center for Minority Health, now celebrating its 10th year, to establish tobacco cessation programs for ethnic, racial, and disparate populations.



Bernard D. Goldstein

In late summer, GSPH hosted a working group of world experts, who provided a synthesis and analysis of information concerning the environmental factors involved in emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, which was one of two topics chosen by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to put in front of the world's environmental ministers at its annual meeting. We were proud to serve as the venue for this exciting event, as this was the first time UNEP had chosen a topic related to human health.

Another area of expansion here at our school is alumni donations, which have increased both in number of donors and amount donated. Especially notable has been the development of a number of new scholarship programs, which are valuable in recruiting students to public health in general and GSPH in particular. I want to extend many thanks to our alumni and friends, whose contributions are so important to the future of the school.

Finally, as I move through my last year as dean of the Graduate School of Public Health, let me again thank everyone for what has been an exciting and rewarding experience for me. Working with GSPH faculty, staff, students, and alumni has been the high point of my long career.

My best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season and New Year.

Bernard D. Goldstein

On the Cutting Edge

A Sampling of Innovative Research

Metabolic Syndrome Predicts Future Cardiovascular Risk in Women

A group of risk factors called metabolic syndrome, rather than body mass index (BMI), predicts future cardiovascular risk in women, according to research from the multicenter Women's Ischemia Syndrome Evaluation (WISE) study, published in February in the journal *Circulation*.

Women with three or more of the following criteria are classified as having metabolic syndrome: waist circumference greater than 35 inches, fasting triglycerides greater than 150mg/dl, HDL cholesterol less than 50mg/dl, hypertension or the use of antihypertensive drug therapy, and fasting glucose greater than 110mg/dl.

The study found that that while overweight women were more likely to be dysmetabolic (have diabetes or metabolic syndrome) than women of normal weight, only metabolic status and not weight per se predicted cardiovascular disease. Specifically, compared to women of normal weight and metabolic status, dysmetabolic women of normal weight were 3.1 times more likely to have obstructive coronary artery disease; overweight and obese women with normal metabolic status had no increased prevalence of coronary artery disease. Similarly, at all levels of weight, women with normal metabolic status had a lower risk of death or a major cardiovascular event over three years than dysmetabolic women. For example, the three-year rate of a major cardiovascular event was 4.6 percent among obese women with

normal metabolic status compared to 17.7 percent among obese women who were dysmetabolic.

"These results suggest that the clinical evaluation of abnormal metabolism (metabolic syndrome and diabetes) should play a more important role than determination of obesity alone in cardiovascular risk stratification in women," said Kevin Kip, study author and GSPH assistant professor of epidemiology. "One possible explanation for this finding is that measurement of BMI to define overweight and obesity does not quantify the magnitude or ratio of subcutaneous-to-visceral fat in a given individual. The visceral fat area, which is associated with insulin resistance, appears to be an important link among many components of the metabolic syndrome, such as dyslipidemia and hypertension."

In addition to the University of Pittsburgh, other WISE study centers include the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the University of Florida at Gainesville, and Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh.

Kip, Kevin E., Oscar C. Marroquin, David E. Kelley, B. Delia Johnson, Sheryl F. Kelsey, Leslee J. Shaw, William J. Rogers, and Steven E. Reis. "Clinical Importance of Obesity Versus the Metabolic Syndrome in Cardiovascular Risk in Women: A Report From the Women's Ischemia Syndrome Evaluation (WISE) Study." *Circulation*, 109 (February 17, 2004): 706-713.



GB Virus C Co-Infection in HIV-Positive Men Linked with Increased Survival

Researchers from the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) have found an intriguing association between GB virus C and decreased risk of death among HIV-positive patients. The findings were published in a March issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

GB virus C (GBV-C), thought to be a cousin of hepatitis C, appears to slow the progression of HIV infection. "To my knowledge, this is the first time a virus co-infection with HIV has been shown to be protective," said Charles Rinaldo, Pittsburgh MACS principal investigator and chair of the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology at GSPH. The outcome of HIV is usually worse when HIV co-exists with another virus, such as cytomegalovirus (CMV), Epstein-Barr virus, or hepatitis B and C. "The GBV-C virus appears to be the opposite and seems to have some protective benefits when co-infecting people with HIV," said Rinaldo. "That's very unusual."

Results of the study were strengthened by the longitudinal design of the MACS project—now in its 20th year investigating the natural history of HIV infection. (See page 13 for related story.) "We could go back and see when the GBV-C virus infection was acquired compared to HIV infection," said Rinaldo. "The timing—when you became infected with one virus

versus the other—turned out to be critically important." Researchers were able to control for the duration of HIV infection, test for the persistence of GBV-C infection, and analyze specimens collected before the availability of antiretroviral drug therapy.

The finding offers clues to potentially important properties of the GBV-C virus that might help to fight HIV infection. "We don't know the underlying mechanisms by which this relatively new virus impedes the progression of HIV infection," said Rinaldo. "That's the critical next step."

Williams, Carolyn F., Donna Klinzman, Traci E. Yamashita, Jinhua Xiang, Philip M. Polgreen, Charles Rinaldo, Chenglong Liu, John Phair, Joseph B. Margolick, Dietmar Zdunek, Georg Hess, and Jack T. Stapleton. "Persistent GB Virus C Infection and Survival in HIV-Infected Men." *New England Journal of Medicine*, 350 (March 4, 2004): 981-990.

Condom Use Decreases Risk for Recurrent Pelvic Inflammatory Disease

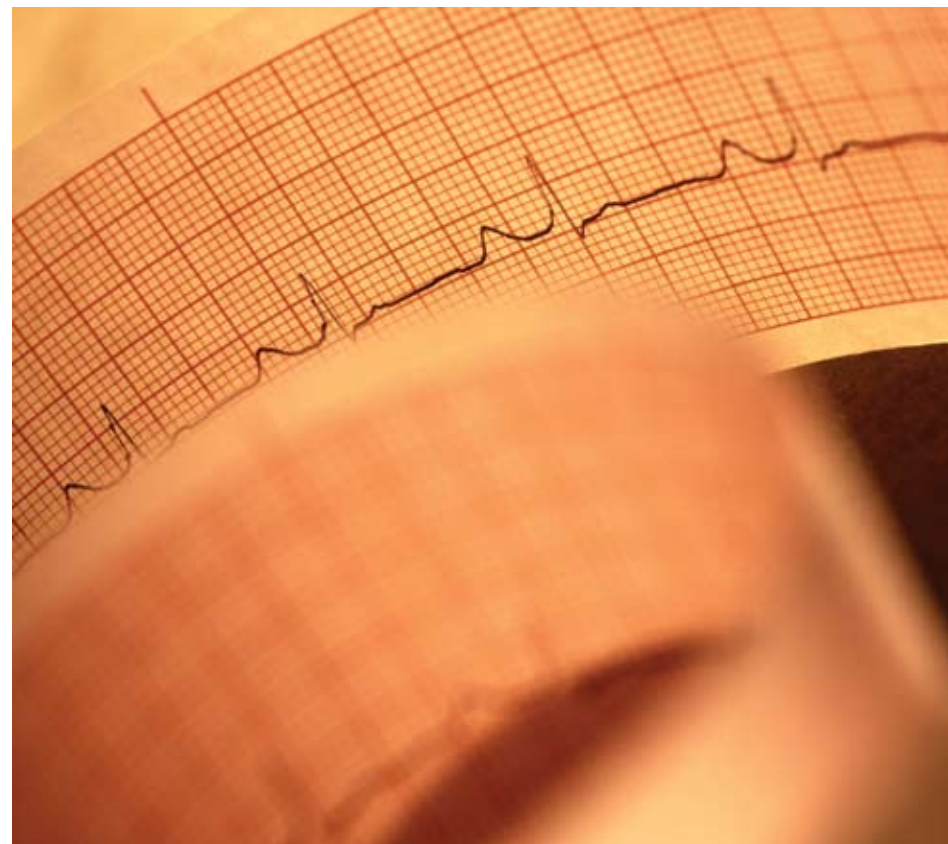
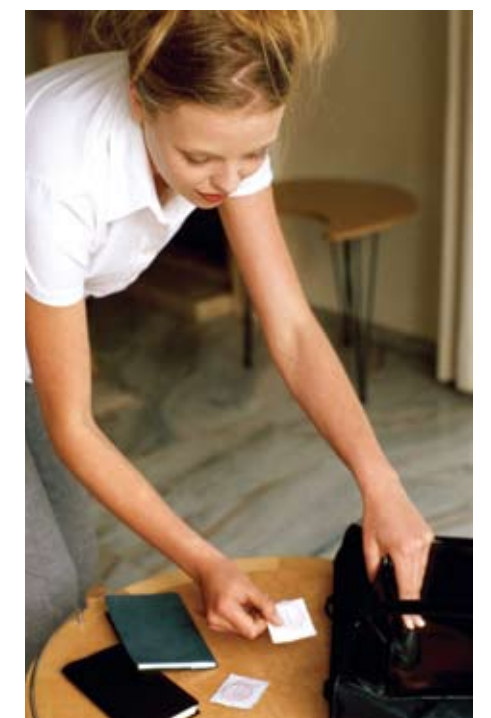
A clear association between regular condom use and a reduced risk for recurrent pelvic inflammatory disease and related complications such as chronic pelvic pain and infertility has been shown in a prospective multicenter study led by researchers from GSPH. The report by the Pelvic Inflammatory Disease Evaluation and Clinical Health study appeared in the August issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*.

Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) is a common and serious infection of the upper genital tract. According to the study, women whose partners consistently used condoms were half

as likely to have an episode of recurrent PID as those whose partners never used condoms. Findings were statistically significant, showing that women who reported regular use of condoms by their partners were 60 percent less likely to become infertile.

"Bacteria that cause cervical infection can travel into the upper genital tract and trigger PID," said Roberta Ness, GSPH professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology and the study's first author. "Many different organisms can cause the disorder, but most cases of PID are associated with sexually transmitted diseases such as gonorrhea or chlamydia."

In the United States, more than a million women will have an episode of acute PID each year, with the rate highest among teenagers, according to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health. More than 100,000 women become infertile each year as a result



of PID, and a large proportion of the 70,000 tubal pregnancies that happen yearly are related to the consequences of PID. In 1997 alone, approximately \$7 billion was spent on PID and its complications.

“The finding is significant because PID tends to recur,” Ness said, adding that 8 percent of women will have PID at some time during the course of their reproductive lives, increasing the chances of future chronic pain and infertility.

Ness, Roberta B.; H. Randall; H. E. Richter; J.F. Peipert; A. Montagno; D. E. Soper; R. L. Sweet; D. B. Nelson; D. Schubeck; S. L. Hendrix; D. C. Bass; and K. E. Kip. “Condom Use and the Risk of Recurrent Pelvic Inflammatory Disease, Chronic Pelvic Pain, or Infertility Following an Episode of Pelvic Inflammatory Disease.” *American Journal of Public Health*: 94 (8), August 1, 2004.

Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy Predicts Cardiac Events in Women with Chest Pain

GSPH researchers have developed a way to predict cardiovascular outcomes in women who exhibit no clinical signs of coronary artery disease. The study, from the Women’s Ischemia Syndrome Evaluation (WISE), used magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS), also known as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), which analyzes biochemical balance within heart cells. WISE is a National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute-sponsored four-center study of women undergoing clinically ordered coronary angiography for chest pain or suspected arterial blockage. Findings were published in a June issue of *Circulation*, the journal of the American Heart Association.

“Since women often have nonspecific symptoms of heart disease, this new procedure could have great diagnostic



benefit—particularly for those women who have no discernible arterial blockage,” said B. Delia Johnson, the study’s first author and GSPH epidemiology research associate.

“Chest pain radiating down the left arm, tightness, and cold sweats are typical signs of a heart attack that many people know. But in women, the disease frequently reveals itself in less obvious ways such as breathing difficulties, vague symptoms of indigestion, and shoulder or back pain.”

Researchers monitored changes in the myocardial compounds phosphocreatine (PCr) and adenosine triphosphate (ATP) after minor stress testing. The ratio of these biochemicals has been shown to predict risk of cardiovascular death in patients with dilated cardiomyopathy, or chronic weakening and enlargement of the heart muscle.

An abnormal MRI suggests the presence of a metabolic dysfunction in the heart muscle. Most of the cardiac events in study participants with abnormal MRI

but without coronary artery disease consisted of unstable angina, which led to repeat angiograms and hospitalization.

“Women with no discernible arterial blockage who have persistent chest pain or other symptoms present a challenge to the diagnostician,” said Johnson. “Cardiovascular MRI shows great promise as a new strategy for evaluating these women.”

Sheryl F. Kelsey and Marian B. Olson, also from the GSPH Department of Epidemiology, were among the members of the research team.

Johnson, B. Delia, Leslee J. Shaw, Steven D. Buchthal, C. Noel Bairey Merz, Hee-Won Kim, Katherine N. Scott, Mark Doyle, Marian B. Olson, Carl J. Pepine, Jan den Hollander, Barry Sharaf, William J. Rogers, Sunil Mankad, John R. Forder, Sheryl F. Kelsey, and Gerald M. Pohost. “Prognosis in Women With Myocardial Ischemia in the Absence of Obstructive Coronary Disease: Results From the National Institutes of Health–National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute–Sponsored Women’s Ischemia Syndrome Evaluation (WISE).” *Circulation*, 109 (June 14, 2004): 2993–2999.

Unlocking an Epidemic

Working in Bosnia on AIDS Issues

Each morning of her stay in Fojnica, a beautiful town nestled in a mountain valley southwest of Sarajevo, Linda Frank woke up to the calls for prayers from the mosque. “It was a unique experience,” she says. “On one hill is the Orthodox church. On the other side is a mosque.” Frank, assistant professor of infectious

diseases and microbiology, was in Fojnica in late March—along with Richard Day, assistant professor of biostatistics—at the invitation of the Bosnian prime ministers to participate in a meeting that brought together the country’s HIV experts from the universities, public health clinics, and community nongovernmental organizations. The purpose of the gathering

was to write the Bosnian proposal for funding from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the key agency that supports AIDS clinical services internationally. Frank and Day were independently funded and traveled as representatives of GSPH.

Unlocking an Epidemic continued



Richard Day, assistant professor of biostatistics, and Linda Frank, assistant professor of infectious diseases and microbiology, were honored to meet with Prime Minister Dragan Mikerevic (far right) while in Banja Luka, Republic of Srpska.

“Countries write competitive grants that are based on a national program for addressing and controlling HIV/AIDS,” says Day. “Bosnia had not made any submission up to this point. We were there to help support and make suggestions and collaborate in the writing of this long, complex document.”

Day brought his expertise in epidemiology and biostatistics to the table in developing the surveillance section of the application. Frank discussed educating the healthcare workforce on HIV and gave a presentation at the meeting on how systems of care have been developed in the United States.

“Having worked in HIV since 1987, I wanted an opportunity to take what I’ve learned here in the United States and help somebody else so they don’t have to start from scratch,” says Frank, who is principal investigator and project director of the Pennsylvania/MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration

HIV/AIDS Bureau. “They can take advantage of what we’ve learned, figure out how it relates to them, and adapt it to their needs.”

Addressing the HIV/AIDS issue in Bosnia is a challenge on many levels.

“The infrastructure of the health system was really decimated as a result of war,” says Frank. “They’re very far behind in understanding the scope of the epidemic there.”

For starters, adds Day, there aren’t good statistics on the epidemic. In fact, there has been reluctance to acknowledge the problem. “In the past they had always said, ‘Don’t worry, it’s being taken care of, we’ve got it under control,’ ” he says.

“We know what [Bosnia’s] going to run into because we’ve seen what’s happened in the United States and in other countries. If they can start planning for those and thinking about how they’re going to handle them ahead of time, then current programs can be much more successful.”

—Richard Day
Assistant Professor of Biostatistics

“To write a proposal where you’re saying things are bad now, they’re going to get worse in the future, and we need some immediate resources to take care of this—that admission of a problem is somewhat difficult for people to make.”

Frank compares the attitudes and stigma attached to AIDS in Bosnia to the climate in the United States in the late 1980s: “There’s a lot of fear, a lot of discrimination against people with HIV. It was very difficult for people to talk about gay men in Bosnia. Wherever we went people said that the main modes of transmission

were injection drug use and sex work. But no one really wanted to acknowledge that they might have gay men in Bosnia.”

Russia and Ukraine are the most serious reservoirs of AIDS in Eastern Europe, says Day. “But the whole thing is moving westward with migration and with increasing availability of drugs. The opportunity to go into Bosnia was a chance to step into Eastern Europe before they get hit by the full impact of the epidemic that is moving towards them,” he says. In addition to their initial work in Bosnia, Frank and Day are also beginning to develop AIDS proposals in Russia, where Day has worked on public health issues involving radiation and other environmental problems since 1990.

While in Bosnia, Frank and Day were also invited to meet with Serbian Prime Minister Dragan Mikerevic in Banja Luka, the capital of the Republic of Srpska. Pitt’s Center for Russian and East European Studies (REES) has had a formal relationship with the University of Banja Luka. REES Director Robert Hayden was instrumental in helping Frank and Day get an initial meeting with the Bosnian ambassador to the United States, which led to the opportunity to network with the prime ministers and the invitation to come to Bosnia.

“I enjoyed meeting the people from Sarajevo and Banja Luka immensely and learning about their country, their culture, and their issues. What I learned from the experience is you really can’t understand another country’s situation unless you go there and meet with the people. You can’t do it from afar. I could never have learned what I learned about Bosnia from reading it in a book or reading statistics.”

—Linda Frank
Assistant Professor of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology

As a result of their meeting in Banja Luka, Frank and Day are negotiating a formal relationship between the University of Banja Luka and the Graduate School of Public Health. “REES already has a relationship with the university, and we wanted to establish a further relationship around the public health issues,” says Frank. “We had lunch with the minister of health and his new physician and they’re very interested in doing more proactive things around AIDS surveillance and education.”



Sarajevo at night

Frank and Day hope they can offer technical assistance to develop prevention programs in Bosnia. Treatment, they point out, is expensive and complicated. Side effects of combination therapy can be unpleasant, and it’s not clear how long someone can stay on the drugs. “I think U.S. models might be helpful to them. For example, using peer educators is one thing that we’ve learned in the United States,” says Frank. “They’re the ones who can really get the message across—other people who have HIV or drug use problems.

“We don’t have all the answers here in the United States,” Frank adds. “But we have learned some hard lessons. As people who are offering education and technical assistance to places like Bosnia, I think we can help them think through some of these things so they don’t have to learn the lessons the hard way like we did.”

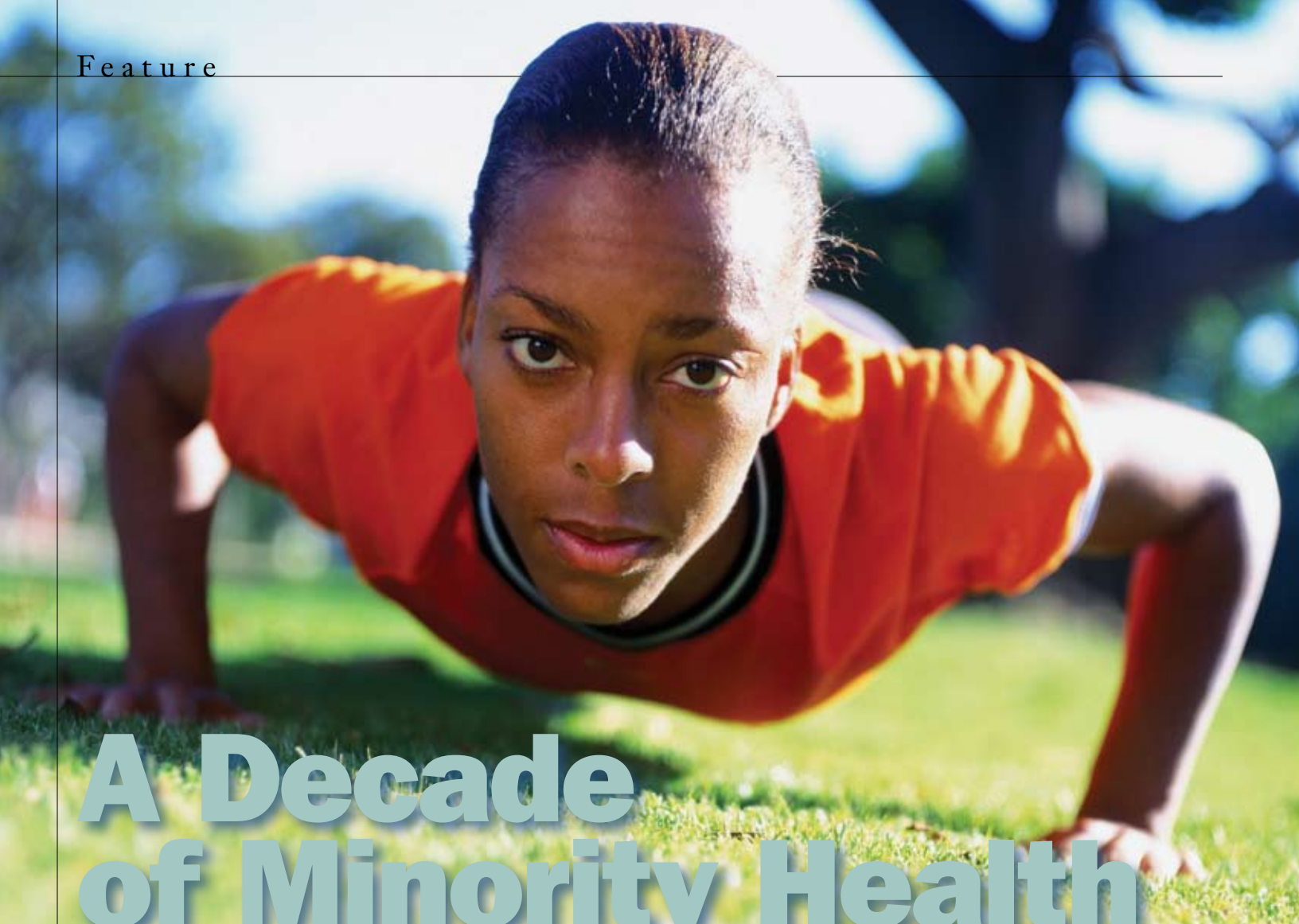
The most important thing they offered during the visit, Day believes, is advice on problems that Bosnia will run into



Bosnian marketplace

as the epidemic matures. “We know what they’re going to run into because we’ve seen what’s happened in the United States and in other countries,” he says. “If they can start planning for those and thinking about how they’re going to handle them ahead of time, then current programs can be much more successful.”

Frank is looking forward to future visits. “I enjoyed meeting the people from Sarajevo and Banja Luka immensely and learning about their country, their culture, and their issues,” she says. “What I learned from the experience is you really can’t understand another country’s situation unless you go there and meet with the people. You can’t do it from afar. I could never have learned what I learned about Bosnia from reading it in a book or reading statistics.”



A Decade of Minority Health

Center for Minority Health Celebrates 10 Years

In March 2001, Stephen B. Thomas, director of the Center for Minority Health, was leaving a meeting with Vice Provost Jack Daniel and Pittsburgh Public Schools Superintendent John W. Thompson when Thompson mentioned that he would soon face suspending 11,000 students who hadn't received their measles booster shot.

"I was shaking his hand," remembers Thomas, "and over his shoulder I could see the Cathedral of Learning. The irony that you could be in close proximity to such expertise and yet have thousands of kids in the public school system facing suspension was just too much. And," he laughs, "I was new enough not to know any better."

That conversation would serve as a valuable lesson for Thomas: Go to where the people are.

The short walk across Bellefield Street was all the time Thomas and Daniel needed to begin to lay the groundwork for what would be the Greater Pittsburgh Measles Immunization Task Force. Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg agreed to serve as cochair along with Superintendent Thompson. A media campaign, titled *Booster Booster*, was created by Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Robert Hill. Then-Pitt basketball Coach Ben Howland was enlisted as spokesperson to get the message out: "Booster—the best shot a kid can take." Mobile units were placed in grocery store parking lots in the inner city. In an astounding 30 days, 90 percent of all the children facing suspension had been vaccinated. "This was a true demonstration of what this community can do when everyone comes together," says Thomas.

The measles immunization campaign was also a demonstration of how dynamic the Center for Minority Health would become under Thomas' innovative leadership. This January, a 10th Anniversary Gala honored those who helped to establish the center. The gala also officially marked the beginning of the yearlong celebration, *A Decade of Minority Health*.

Three months later, the center celebrated National Minority Health Month, bringing numerous events concerning health and health disparities into the community. The kickoff program at the Petersen Events Center in early April offered cooking demonstrations, nutrition counseling, health screenings, and physical activities, including a climbing wall, line dancing, and aerobic demonstrations and classes—all as a way to get

the word out about diabetes and heart disease prevention and control. Another event sponsored by the center offered an opportunity for attendees to map their family health histories in the context of a discussion of cancer and heredity at the YMCA.

Still other activities involved a community walk for healthy families and babies, the first annual R&B Hip-HoPrEVENT for HIV/AIDS Awareness, and a community mental health and wellness fair at the Kingsley Association's new facility in the East End. Minority health was even in the spotlight at the Pittsburgh Pirates' first evening game of the season, when the Pirates celebrated the center's Decade of Minority Health. Thomas himself threw the first honorary pitch with GSPH Dean Bernard Goldstein serving as his catcher.

A partnership with the Urban League of Pittsburgh, Health Promotion Sundays have become one of the center's signature promotions each April, when ministers

in Pittsburgh's African American churches deliver sermons with health themes. After the service, volunteers conduct health screenings and provide health information.

This fall brings another popular program—Thomas' inspired twist on the federal health promotion *Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day*. The center's version is called *Take a Health Professional to the People Day*. "Many of the people we work with don't have doctors," Thomas says. "We take teams of physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, and health educators into barbershops and beauty salons in the Black community.

"Our ability to deliver is made possible by a dedicated staff committed to a shared vision of service," says Thomas. "Ms. Angela Ford, CMH associate director since 1996, is the embodiment of the hope and promise envisioned when the CMH was created in 1994. A doctoral candidate in the School of Social Work, Ms. Ford ensures that the community is always top priority."



CMH Associate Director Angela Ford and Director Stephen B. Thomas at the black-tie gala in January that launched a yearlong celebration, *A Decade in Minority Health*.

CMH Staff

Stephen B. Thomas, Center for Minority Health Director and Philip Hallen Professor of Community Health and Social Justice

Angela Ford, Associate Director

Karen Reddick, Project Director

Ray Howard, Project Director

Rachael Berget, Project Director

Sekai Turner, Project Director

Victoria Garner, Project Director

Arlene Vento, Administrator

Lisa George, Grants Manager

Mario Browne, Community Health Coordinator

Veronica Sansing, Research Assistant

Maya Gist, Research Assistant

William Smith, Technical and Database Manager

Tatiana Maxenkova, Graphics and Web Designer

Barbara G. Hale, Receptionist

In June, the center announced that it would collaborate with Adventure Cycling Association, the nation's premier bike touring organization, to create an Underground Railroad Bicycle Route. The partnership brings together an organization with expertise in mapping out long-distance bike trails, such as their most recent Lewis and Clark bike trail, with the center's connections in the African American community and its focus on health promotion. "This is related directly to what people can do to take charge of their health," says Thomas. "We've identified slave safe houses here in Pittsburgh and want to create a spur off the Underground Railroad Bicycle Route so people can both walk and ride to the Underground Railroad safe houses. It's an educational experience that's also healthy—an example of cultural tailoring, making the activity relevant to the target community."

CMH Funding Partners

Maurice Falk Medical Fund
 The Pittsburgh Foundation
 DSF Charitable Foundation
 The Heinz Endowments
 Highmark Foundation
 POISE Foundation
 Staunton Farm Foundation
 Pennsylvania Department of Health
 National Institutes of Health,
 National Center on Minority
 Health and Health Disparity
 Judith Davenport
 Nicholas Beldecos



Speakers, guests, and CMH staff at the 2004 National Minority Health Leadership Summit reception.



From left to right: a representative from the Pittsburgh mayor's office, Stephen Thomas, and Pittsburgh Public Schools Superintendent John Thompson cut the ribbon to start the festivities at the Healthy Class of 2010 Kickoff.



From left to right: Dean Bernard D. Goldstein, Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, J. Henry Montes, H. Jack Geiger, and Stephen Thomas.

Many of the events taking place during A Decade of Minority Health are outreach programs planned by center-organized health disparity working groups. Each working group focuses on one of the seven priority areas charted by a national initiative to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities. These priorities include cancer screening and management, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, immunizations, infant mortality, and mental health.

"We have now had two full years of demonstrating what can be done when you partner with a community and let the ideas of the working groups serve as the guiding light for our community-based interventions," says Thomas.

The center also has instituted the Community Research Advisory Board (CRAB), composed of 60 leaders from the community. The board provides a forum to educate members of the minority community about research and also to educate researchers about the importance of community-based research that is both scientifically sound and culturally competent.

As the Philip Hallen Professor of Community Health and Social Justice, Thomas points to the significance of his title. "It's a bully pulpit with some degree of moral authority to give voice to those segments of our community that are poorly served, underserved, and never served," he says. "Our mission here is to build a bridge to those communities; to build trusting

partnerships with those communities; and to translate evidence-based scientific research into practical steps people can take to improve their lives, to promote their health, and prevent disease."

In January, the center announced a \$10 million fundraising campaign to support its ongoing efforts. "With that 10-year birthday we recognized that we needed to set our goal around sustainability," says Thomas. "We have a big job ahead of us. The problems didn't occur overnight; they're not going to go away overnight. But there will be no solution without the engagement of the community. We've demonstrated that by using a public health approach, we can work together today to build a better tomorrow for everyone."

Biology of Oral Cancer

Is Karyotyping the Key to a Cure?



Susanne Gollin

The project that would capture the professional imagination of Susanne Gollin was dropped on her desk—literally—a year after she joined the GSPH faculty. Gollin is professor of human genetics and director of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) Cytogenetics Facility and the Molecular Carcinogenesis and Cell Biology Program at UPCI's Oral Cancer Center. She was taking over as director of the University of Pittsburgh Clinical Cytogenetics Laboratory upon the retirement of radiation health professor Sylvia Pan when Pan asked for help in completing the karyotyping of head and neck cancer cell lines made by Theresa Whiteside, professor of pathology at Pitt's School of Medicine.

The karyotypes, showing structural and numerical alterations of chromosomes, were the most abnormal Gollin had ever seen. She knew they needed to be studied. "I was used to looking at leukemia cells, which usually have 40 to 55 chromosomes.

The normal number of chromosomes in a human cell is 46," she says. "These were near triploid and tetraploid, so they had around 70 to 100 chromosomes." She was fascinated. "I picked up this wonderful project, which is now my career. I finished analyzing the data for the initial paper published in 1989 and then took the ball and ran."

Fifteen years later, she's still running. There are 30,000 new cases of oral cancer diagnosed in this country each year, the highest incidence among the head and neck cancers. Diagnosed early, the cure rate for oral cancer is 80–90 percent. However, most oral cancers are discovered at a later stage, resulting in 8,000 deaths annually—a rate that hasn't changed in decades. As a geneticist and a cancer researcher, Gollin is working to reverse those statistics. "You have to understand the biology of disease," she explains,

"in order to determine how to detect it early or cure it without killing all the other cells in the body."

In 1993, Gollin set out to collect 200 tumor and blood specimens from consenting patients with oral cancer. "It's probably the largest series ever collected," she says. "And we're still analyzing the data." From the tumor specimens, the researchers made paraffin blocks to study the cells after they were fixed, as pathologists do. They stained them with antibodies, looking for alterations in particular proteins. DNA was prepared from a small population of the tumor cells, and the DNA sequence of certain genes was studied to see if mutations were present. Finally, they cultured the cells to develop a set of cell lines. "You only get a 25 to 30 percent success rate in the culture of tumors. So we developed about 50 cell lines," Gollin says. "But we can cryopreserve and culture those cell lines and study them for many years."

The size of the collection is important. “Every tumor is a little different it seems,” says Gollin. “And every cell in every tumor seems to be different—which, I think, most people didn’t recognize until recently, at least in head and neck tumors. There seems to be a lot of heterogeneity, which is caused by chromosomal instability.”

Understanding how chromosomes become unstable—present in too many or too few copies—is one of the main focuses of Gollin’s lab. In some cancer cells with chromosomal instability, the chromosomes are not distributed equally when a cell divides. As a result, daughter cells will have different sets of chromosomes from each other as well as from the mother cell. For the past six years Gollin has collaborated with William Saunders, associate professor in Pitt’s Department of Biological Sciences, studying chromosomal instability and the role of cigarette smoke in oral cancer. They’ve been able to demonstrate that toxic chemicals in cigarette smoke cause chromosome breakage and affect the way squamous cells separate their chromosomes. The result is an uneven distribution of chromosome parts or segments. The dividing chromosome might be pulled in two different directions at once. “When chromosomes with two connection points are distributed to the different daughter cells, they form a bridge between the two cells that breaks,” says Gollin. “Then different parts of that chromosome are present in each of the daughter cells, leading to further chromosomal imbalance.”

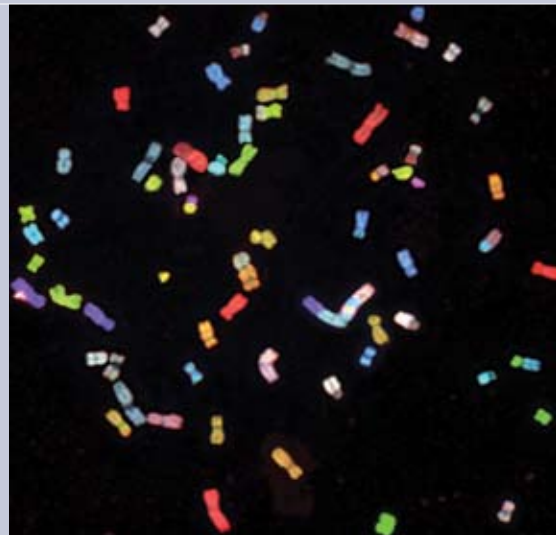
Gollin is finding about 69 chromosomes in the tumor cells she’s studied, rather than the 46 found in normal cells. In about half of head and neck cancers, they’ve discovered that one segment of the chromosome—band 11q13—is present in 20 to 80 copies rather than the normal two copies. (Amplification of 11q13 has also been reported in esophageal, breast, liver, lung, and bladder

cancers.) Oral cancer patients with this genetic abnormality, Gollin says, have poor survival rates compared to patients without the abnormality.

In 2002, Gollin’s doctoral student Xin Huang published a detailed map of 11q13. Scientists, knowing that the segment contained the gene cyclin D1, which helps to regulate cell division, had hypothesized that the amplification of this gene was involved in cancer. Huang’s map of the sequence revealed the presence of at least nine different genes, including two new ones, which Gollin dubbed TAOS1 and TAOS2 (tumor amplified and overexpressed sequence). Huang and Gollin hypothesize that the other eight genes also play a role in driving gene amplification of band 11q13.

Defects in the DNA repair process and the role of human papillomavirus (HPV) in the development of oral cancer are two other areas under investigation in Gollin’s lab. HPV is known to cause cervical cancer in women. Recent studies have linked it to oral cancer. Camille Rose Ragin (PhD ’00), a postdoctoral researcher in the Gollin laboratory who is also working on an MPH in epidemiology, has shown for the first time in oral cancer cells that HPV tends to integrate itself into regions of the chromosome that are hot spots for DNA breaks.

Gollin is also interested in the DNA repair process. Cells “spell check” their DNA prior to copying it and fix any errors by a process called DNA repair. The errors may be caused by chemicals, radiation, or oxidants in the cells, the latter of which occur naturally. Gollin and her students are looking for defects in the detection and repair of DNA damage in oral cancer cells and at the role the genes play in oral cancer development, progression, and resistance to therapy. “We knew from reading the literature that there was one



Part of Susanne Gollin’s research, which shows chromosomes from a dividing oral cancer cell. The colors in the image result from binding of matching DNA fibers labeled with fluorescent probes, which enable identification of the origin of specific chromosomal segments. Multicolor chromosomes are the result of chromosome breakage and rejoining, with the breakage most likely having resulted from the damaging effects of cigarette smoke.

really important DNA repair gene distal to the 11q13 region, but by looking at the new gene maps, I discovered there were three more close by,” says Gollin. “This important region is lost in step one of the amplification process. Therefore, we’re trying to determine whether having half as many copies of this set of DNA repair genes in the amplified cells versus the nonamplified cells alters their response to radiation exposure. First, are these cells able to die? Second, do they die as a result of radiation therapy? If they don’t die, how do they repair their DNA? If they don’t repair their DNA, does their genetic composition get wilder and more aggressive? That’s where we are now.”

Gollin’s hope is that by understanding the biology of cancer she’ll be able to contribute to the development of tests to diagnose the disease at an earlier, more curable stage—tests that will suggest which therapy may be best to give the patient—and targeted therapies to attack the specific cancer cells rather than all of the dividing cells in the body. “The fact that cell division is a normal cellular process and the genes involved are our own genes in our own cells makes killing cancer cells rather difficult. Since they are our own cells, they are invisible to our immune system. Current therapies also kill normal cells,” she says. “For these and other reasons, curing cancer is a big challenge.”

Pitt Men’s Study Hits 20-Year Milestone

It’s not like those days in the early 1980s when Charles Rinaldo was out on the front lines, going into gay bars in order to recruit men to participate in a longitudinal study of a mysterious epidemic that would later become known as AIDS. Twenty years into the Pitt Men’s Study on the natural history of HIV-1 infection, the principal investigator and chair of GSPH’s Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology has long since returned his focus to the laboratory. That is where he and his colleagues have made significant contributions to the understanding of AIDS and to treatments to inhibit the HIV virus. In fact, with the advent of combination drug therapy in 1996, Rinaldo says, the study has really become the natural history of *treated* HIV infection: “Most of the men in our study are receiving treatments for the virus, which has a major impact on inhibiting the pathogenesis and illnesses caused by the infection.”

The Pitt Men’s Study is the local arm of the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS), one of the largest and longest-running scientific studies of gay and bisexual men in the world. Participants in the study return every six months—some have been doing so for 20 years now—to get a physical, have their blood drawn (the specimens are then frozen so they’re available for study at later points), and spend close to an hour responding to a long questionnaire about their health, habits, and state of mind. In addition to Pittsburgh, MACS includes sites in Baltimore, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

With such longitudinal data and a repository of blood samples, the study has played a key role in helping scientists tease out more and more of an understanding of the mechanism and disease path of HIV infection. “There have been more than 800 publications that have come out of the MACS,” says Anthony Silvestre, co-investigator and associate professor of infectious diseases and microbiology. “These include the earliest study that clearly identified certain sexual acts as responsible for transmitting the virus, studies that looked at the amount of virus that was in semen, studies that identified the fact that young gay men 10 years into

the epidemic were still getting infected with HIV at very high rates. Those were all very important contributions to dealing with the epidemic.”

The Pitt Men’s Study was the first to show that the amount of virus in the blood very early in the infectious process sets what Rinaldo calls “the thermostat.” “It gives you a set point for determining how you will respond to the infection, whether or not you will progress rapidly or slowly with this HIV infection,” he says. “We found that we could take a sample of blood that we had frozen down within the first year of the person’s infection, determine the amount of HIV in that blood, and compare it to the amount of virus for other people in our study. The level of virus was extremely accurate in determining whether that individual would develop full-blown AIDS as long as 10 years later. That finding was really a hallmark. It’s been used in the 10 years since then as the number one parameter to tell whether a person’s HIV infection is progressing. A few years later when drugs became available, they used the viral load test to see how people were responding. That was certainly one of the most significant and important findings in terms of our ability to fight this AIDS epidemic.”

The MACS study continues to reap results. Recently, researchers discovered a protective interaction between GB virus C (a close, but usually harmless, relative of hepatitis C) and HIV. (See related story in Cutting Edge section on pages 2–3.) Other studies are looking at genetic polymorphisms in immune-based proteins such as chemokines and cytokines and their receptors and how they might be related to protection against or susceptibility to the progression of HIV infection.

Despite the Pitt Men’s Study’s many advancements in understanding and treating HIV and AIDS, both Rinaldo and Silvestre agree that its most important contribution has been its impact on public health in Western Pennsylvania. “It was because of the study that very early prevention activities occurred throughout the community,” Silvestre says. “The study was distributing condoms and doing



Left to right: Charles Rinaldo, chair of GSPH’s Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology; David Ostrow, of Centegra Health System; and GSPH Dean Bernard D. Goldstein at the commemoration of the Pitt Men’s Study’s 20th anniversary.

networking throughout particularly the gay community, educating people about how to avoid the disease.”

“We were able to maintain a low level of incidence of HIV infection in this community in large part, I firmly believe, because of our study—even though prevention was not and is not the primary purpose of our study,” says Rinaldo. “We weren’t the only people doing prevention by far, but we were there at the beginning. It saved lives.”

An April event commemorating the anniversary of the Pitt Men’s Study provided an opportunity to honor the study’s participants and to reflect upon the study’s many accomplishments during the past two decades. The commemoration included a keynote address by David Ostrow, psychiatrist and certified addictionist with Centegra Health System, on “The Impact of Volunteers on AIDS Research.” Generous gifts from GlaxoSmithKline, The Memorial Kite Project, Charles Rinaldo, Blooms Florist, Temple Street Productions/Showtime Networks Inc. (producer and U.S. distributor of *Queer as Folk*, the acclaimed series about the lives of gay men and women living in Pittsburgh), Phalguni Gupta, Deborah McMahon, Sharon Riddler, the GSPH Office of the Dean, and numerous other groups and individuals helped make the event possible.

Foster Lecture Series Enriches Understanding of Alzheimer's Disease

Early in Jay L. Foster's battle with Alzheimer's disease, his family realized not only how little they knew about the disease but also how difficult information was to come by. The former vice president of L.B. Foster Co. died from complications of the disease in 2000 at the age of 83. But his family never forgot their struggle to better understand what was happening. As a result, Foster's wife Betty, son Lee, and daughter Penny Alpern established the Jay L. Foster Memorial Lecture Series in Alzheimer's Disease. The family's initial commitment provides funding for 10 lectures. "We wanted to do something to promote research and more understanding of Alzheimer's," says Lee Foster, "but also get information out to the lay community." The inaugural lecture, "Current Status of Mild Cognitive Impairment," was delivered in April 2002 by Ronald C. Petersen, professor of neurology at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and director of Mayo's Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

Now at the halfway point, the series has showcased outstanding researchers from across the country discussing issues such as risk factors, dementia epidemiology, and the relationship to cardiovascular risk. A distinguishing feature of the series is that the speaker first presents a community lecture attended by a lay audience. Later that same day, the speaker delivers a scientific lecture to the academic community. The most recent pair of lectures was presented this past April by Richard Mayeux, codirector of the Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer's Disease and the Aging Brain and the Gertrude H. Sergievsky Professor of Neurology, Psychiatry, and Epidemiology at Columbia University. He discussed his research regarding genetics and Alzheimer's disease.

Last year, the lecture series committee, which is chaired by Steven DeKosky, professor and chair of the Department



Richard Mayeux (left) of Columbia University speaks with Steven DeKosky, professor and chair of the Department of Neurology and director of Pitt's Alzheimer Disease Research Center, and Isabel De Foster after the lecture.

of Neurology and director of Pitt's Alzheimer Disease Research Center, proposed the addition of round-table sessions to follow the community lecture. "You could sense there was a great desire for more and more information on local resources," says Foster. "We realized by having an interactive session afterwards with four or five discussion groups and peopling them with local expertise, we would be providing greater service to that part of the community we're trying to reach."

"We are honored to be working with the Fosters in offering the Foster Memorial Lecture Series," says GSPH Dean Bernard Goldstein. "Both the scientific and lay communities in Pittsburgh have benefited greatly from the knowledge shared by the experts who have participated, and we look forward to highlighting more of the important research taking place in the area of Alzheimer's disease through future lectures."



Left to right: Penny Foster Alpern and husband Charles Alpern; Mary Sano, lecturer and professor, Mount Sinai School of Medicine; Nathaniel Foster; Isabel De Foster and husband Lee Foster

Lee Foster—who sits on the lecture series committee along with his sister Penny, faculty from Pitt's public health and medical schools, and members of the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association—has been pleased with the series. "We hope we can continue this until all of the issues are resolved," he says. "As long as we believe that there is a void and that we can contribute in some way towards filling it, we'll continue to do this. I think my father would be absolutely delighted to know his name and life are being memorialized in this way."

Audio of April's scientific lecture by Richard Mayeux can be heard by visiting <http://cidde-msl.cidde.pitt.edu>, clicking on Graduate School of Public Health from the list on the left side of screen, and then choosing the appropriate lecture. Audio can only be accessed using Microsoft Explorer.

Dean's Day 2004

In an impressive exhibition of student projects, GSPH students showcased their research and practice activities at the 2004 Dr. Herbert Rosenkranz Dean's Day competition this March. Eight students were recognized with awards ranging from \$150 to \$1,000 in such categories as best overall project presentation, most significant contribution to the public health field, excellence in environmental health, and best poster. Established in 1999 by former dean Herbert Rosenkranz, Dean's Day provides a forum for GSPH students to display their projects and to receive recognition and awards for superior research and practice.

Doctoral Degree Student Awardees

- 1st Place: Adam Soloff (IDM): "Studies of Adenoviral-Based Vaccines in the Primate Model of HIV-1 Infection"
- 2nd Place: Kirsten St. George (IDM): "Treatment of Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Infection (a major post-transplant infectious disease complication) with the Drug Ganciclovir"
- 3rd Place: Caterina Rosano (EPI): "Correlation between Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Brain Abnormalities, and Physical Functional Decline in People as They Age"

Master's Degree Student Awardees

- 1st Place: David T. Huang (MMPH): "Assessment of the Cost-Effectiveness of Early Goal Directed Therapy Used in the Therapeutic Treatment for Severe Sepsis Syndrome" (a condition characterized by infection-induced inflammation and organ dysfunction)
- 2nd Place: Benjamin Nti (IDM): "Examination of the Interaction between Malaria and HIV"
- 3rd Place: Elizabeth A. Schafer (IDM): "Findings on the Antiviral Effect of Mifepristone on HIV"

Sunita Dodani received the **Rosenkranz Award**, which is presented to the project making the most significant contribution to public health, for her proposal to establish a world-class school of public health within the domain of Aga Khan University (Karachi, Pakistan) in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh and Global Health Network. Dodani is a PhD student in epidemiology.

For her studies on the geographic and socioeconomic risk of hospitalization for asthma in Allegheny County, Rosemarie Ramos won both the **Delta Omega Poster Award** for best poster and the **Keleti Prize**, which is awarded to a project demonstrating excellence in environmental health. Ramos is pursuing her doctorate in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health.



Top: GSPH doctoral student Sherianne Gleason (left) discusses her poster presentation with GSPH Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Education Sandra Quinn.

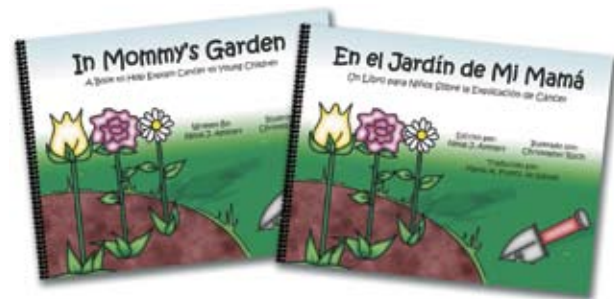
Second from top: Kenneth Jaros, assistant professor of behavioral and community health sciences, congratulates doctoral candidate Rosemarie Ramos on her awards.

Second from bottom: Daniel Ochiel (left), an infectious diseases and microbiology student, shares his poster with James Butler, visiting assistant professor with the Center for Public Health Practice.

Bottom: Dean Bernard D. Goldstein (left) with the 2004 Dean's Day winners, left to right: David Huang, Kirsten St. George, Rosemarie Ramos, Elizabeth A. Schafer, Adam Soloff, and Benjamin Nti.

From the Top Shelf

A Sampling of Books by Alumni



In Mommy's Garden: A Book to Help Explain Cancer to Young Children

Written by Neyal J. Ammary; Illustrated by Christopher Risch (Canyon Beach Visual Communications, 2004)

As a young child, **Neyal J. Ammary** (MPH '03) didn't understand what was wrong with her playmate Rachel's mother. "Her mom wasn't always around, but when she was there she used to limp and she wore a scarf on her head," Ammary recalls. "I was always scared to ask questions." Her death from cancer, when the girls were 10, left an indelible mark on Ammary.

Fast forward to graduate school, when much of Ammary's work dealt with cancer prevention and detection. Assigned to create an educational resource for children in her mental health education class, Ammary decided to develop a book explaining cancer to young children. First, she identified the main issues for children who have a parent with cancer: Did I cause it? Am I going to catch it? What is it? Then she examined existing literature to see what was available and how it was presented.

"The most shocking thing for me was not only was there not very much for young children in the 3-7 years age group," she says, "but every book I found had all White characters. There was nothing for minorities, who cancer affects disproportionately."

Dedicated to Ammary's friend Rachel, *In Mommy's Garden* offers a comforting explanation of cancer, likening it to weeds in the garden that crowd out the beautiful flowers. The simple but colorful illustrations allow children to identify with the characters across cultures.

Ammary's book has been recognized with a Silver Award for patient education information from the National Health

Information Awards, as well as a printed materials award from the American Public Health Association. The book also has been adopted by Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, where it will be distributed to patients and their children.

In Mommy's Garden, in demand by cancer centers as well as individuals in the United States and Canada, can be ordered online at <http://books.canyonbeach.com/inmommysgarden>.

Ammary serves as a fellow at the Office of Education and Special Initiatives at the National Cancer Institute, where she develops cancer-related publications and Web resources for children and young adults.

Public Protection from Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Terrorism

Edited by Allen Brodsky, Raymond H. Johnson, and Ronald E. Goans (Medical Physics Publishing, Madison, Wis., 2004)

When the Baltimore-Washington Chapter of the Health Physics Society decided last year to change the topic of its annual meeting and summer school for 2004 from instrumentation to homeland security, its leaders turned to **Allen Brodsky** (ScD '66) to serve as academic dean. Brodsky is a senior scientist at Science Applications International Corp. and adjunct professor of radiation science at Georgetown University Medical Center.

Brodsky—who has grave concerns about the country being ready to handle radioactive, biological, and chemical terrorist activities—jumped into action immediately, determining topics and lining up an illustrious group of speakers in a week's time. (Planning time for the summer sessions usually occurs three years in advance.) "I figured troops are

getting shot at over in Iraq," he says. "I can give forth a little bit to help out, too. So I took it on."

The resulting text, *Public Protection from Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Terrorism*, is a primer for those responsible for dealing with terrorism. Brodsky brought to the project 50 years of experience as a health physicist for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Naval Research Laboratory, and the Atomic Energy Commission. He wrote one of the first handbooks for emergency responders while with the Atomic Energy Commission. The 34 chapters and 13 appendices in *Public Protection* are divided into three broad subject areas, Brodsky says: "the pre-attack phase, including the planning and preparations prior to the attack; the immediate post-attack phase, including the immediate actions to minimize exposures and maximize life-saving in the early minutes and hours after attack; and the recovery phase, including the follow-up care of injured and traumatized persons after attack, with some information on recovery of property and resources."

Three chapters and six appendices of data and radiation dose assessment methods were written by Brodsky himself. "One of the chapters includes my experience with Dr. Niel Wald [professor emeritus of environmental and occupational health] managing radioactively contaminated patients from Western Pennsylvania, showing that we did not receive significant exposures ourselves," he says.

Brodsky hopes that the book will ultimately be used by planners as well as by those who teach first responders. "Human life is valuable," he says. "One way to save lives is by educating people properly on how to deal with radiation and not to be frightened, like we sometimes are, with small amounts."

Editor's Note: For more information on Brodsky, one of this year's recipients of the GSPH Distinguished Graduate Award, see page 28.



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Feature

National Advisory Committee Encourages HPM to Grow and Improve

When the National Advisory Committee to the Department of Health Policy & Management (HPM) met in Pittsburgh last April for its second annual meeting, its members took careful note of the many strengths of the department: a talented and committed faculty, an impressive level of funding for research, diversity of course work, numerous experiential learning opportunities for students, and the sure-handed leadership of Dean Bernard Goldstein and Chair Judith Lave.

“We have an absolutely terrific committee—people who are leaders in the industry,” says committee Chair Diane Peterson (MPH '75), president of Houston, Texas-based health-

care consulting firm D. Peterson & Associates. She noted that the department invited practitioners as well as academicians from other programs to come in and take a hard look at the program.

“Every year we go through an environmental assessment of the industry and then look at the curriculum: What needs to be strengthened? What could be dropped? What kind of teaching methods could be changed to give students more management skills? We meet with the students, too. We have lunch with them and ask them for their observations on the program and how well they feel they're prepared to march out into their first jobs.”

Among the recommendations made by the committee is an enhanced recruiting effort to increase the number of students enrolled in the program. In addition, the committee suggests providing more advising and placement support for students and building support of the program in the healthcare industry.

“Most of the people on the committee have some tie to the Pitt program,” says Peterson. “Many of us are graduates of the program, so we want to see nothing but the greatest strength in the department and the best reputation in the nation.”

New Certificate in Global Health Highlights GSPH's International Strengths

Not long after GSPH's new Certificate in Global Health was approved by the University Council on Graduate Study, an interested student appeared in the office of environmental and occupational health professor Meryl H. Karol. The student was just the kind of person Karol, associate dean for academic affairs and the program's codirector, had envisioned for the program. “Here is a woman who has an MPH and a PhD in social work. But she's a continual learner,” says Karol. “She recognizes the need for a global perspective in her field.” Karol expects that in addition to attracting nondegree students to the school, the 15-credit certificate will be an extremely popular option for current GSPH students.

Groundwork for the certificate program was laid two years ago with the creation of a two-credit foundation course, Critical Issues in Global Health, designed by Karol; Ron LaPorte, professor of epidemiology and the certificate program's codirector; and Robbie Ali, assistant professor of environmental and occupational health

and of behavioral and community health sciences. In 2003, 80 percent of the students enrolled in that course came with international backgrounds, Karol estimates. “It was wonderful teaching them because they come with varied experiences and backgrounds,” she says. “We have excellent discussions about what the health problems are in their countries, what the health systems are like, and how accessible medical care is.”

Requirements for the Certificate in Global Health include the critical issues course, as well as International Health Policy and Management; Health, Disease, and the Environment II; Special Studies in Global Health; Introduction to Molecular Epidemiology; and either Theories of Health Behavior and Health Education or Dimensions of Aging: Culture and Health, for 12 credits. Another three credits of course work may be selected from 17 elective courses offered through five of the school's departments. Karol points out that one of the unique elements of the GSPH

program—the special studies requirement—draws upon the international nature of much GSPH research. “Special Studies in Global Health will be a directed study with a faculty member engaged in international research,” says Karol. “Many of the students have never had a research experience before. We're hoping this will provide an international opportunity for them.” Currently, 37 GSPH faculty members are involved in studies in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, or South America.

“We developed the program because most problems in the health sciences should be addressed at a global level,” Karol says. “Infectious diseases, for instance, are a global problem. The best example is SARS. You really have to understand transmission patterns, susceptibility, and underlying factors that contribute to the disease.

“It's unquestionably time to look globally at problems rather than locally.”

Public Health Week Events Focus on Eliminating Health Disparities

Keeping with this year's theme of Eliminating Health Disparities for National Public Health Week, GSPH hosted a series of events from April 3–9 addressing the critical need for equality in health across all populations.

As the cornerstone of the week's events, Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Calvin B. Johnson joined Dean Bernard Goldstein, Allegheny County Health Department Director Bruce Dixon, and Center for Minority Health Project Director Ray Howard at a briefing on health disparities.

During the briefing, Michael Meit, director of the Center for Rural Health Practice (CRHP) at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, announced the release of the report "Bridging the Health Divide: The Rural Public Health Research Agenda," which was compiled from discussions that occurred at last fall's National Rural Public Health Research Agenda meeting sponsored by GSPH. The meeting brought together more than 60 public health researchers, national organization representatives, and practitioners from as far as Hawaii to identify and articulate areas of public health research that can influence policy and practice and impact the health of rural populations. The resulting report is designed to help guide public health efforts aimed at exploring and addressing health disparities experienced by citizens in rural areas.

The Center for Minority Health kicked off National Public Health Week with an event called "Get Moving" at the Petersen Events Center. Concurrent with the center's 10-year anniversary and National Minority Health Month, the event focused on the prevention of diabetes and heart disease and featured a community wellness fair demonstrating strategies for increased physical activity.

Other National Public Health Week events included faculty and student presentations of research addressing global health disparities, bulletin board presentations throughout GSPH, a film social featuring the movie *Miss Evers' Boys*, a blood drive, and the walking tour known as the Walking Health Bus. In addition, the Doctoral Student Organization collaborated with the Department of Biological Sciences on a question-and-answer session about advanced degrees in public health. Attracting students at all levels of their undergraduate careers, the session featured GSPH students who addressed academic preparation for graduate school, the application process, curricula, and careers.



Top: Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Calvin B. Johnson and Dean Bernard D. Goldstein. Above: Margaret Potter (left), director of the Center for Public Health Practice, with Secretary Johnson (fourth from right) and members of his staff during their National Public Health Week stop in Pittsburgh.

Editor's Note: Audio of the April 8 health disparities briefing can be heard by visiting <http://cidde-ml.cidde.pitt.edu>, clicking on Graduate School of Public Health from the list on the left side of screen, and then choosing the appropriate lecture. Audio can only be accessed using Microsoft Explorer.

Achievements Recognized at Convocation and Alumni Dinner

"As a school, we are only as successful as the students we teach." This sentiment from GSPH's Dean Bernard Goldstein captured the theme of this year's alumni dinner and convocation, during which the superior achievements of students and alumni were celebrated. Faculty conferred degrees and certificates on approximately 150 students at this year's graduation ceremony at the IBEW Conference Center on Pittsburgh's South Side, while approximately 40 students, alumni, and faculty received special awards and honors at the Alumni Dinner at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association (awards listed below).

Donald A. Henderson, 21st Century Professor of Medicine in the School of Medicine and professor of infectious diseases and microbiology in GSPH, resident fellow scholar of the Center for Biosecurity of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and dean emeritus of the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, presented the convocation address, "Adventures in Public Health: Where None Have Gone Before." Henderson, known for his work on the eradication of smallpox, served as chief bioterrorism advisor to President George W. Bush from 2001–03, during which time he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Distinguished Alumni Awards

(see page 28 for profiles of the winners)

- Jane Cauley (MPH '80, DrPH '83)
- Allen Brodsky (ScD '66)
- David Savitz (PhD '82)
- Margaret F. Gloninger Award
- Marlene M. Lugg (MPH '66, DrPH '81)

Dr. James L. Craig Endowed Excellence in Education Award

Todd Reinhart, ScD



Convocation speaker Donald A. Henderson, 21st Century Professor of Medicine and professor of infectious diseases and microbiology, with Dean Bernard D. Goldstein

Outstanding Student Awards

- Kimberly Faulkner, PhD
- Sara Fitzgerald, MS
- Sumita Ganguly, MS
- Weimin Gao, MS, PhD
- Laryssa Howe, PhD
- Yan Lin, MS
- Amanda Lovallo, MPH
- Changyu Shen, PhD
- Anna Skold, MPH
- Hui-Ju Tsai, PhD
- Michael Walsh, PhD

Delta Omega National Honor Society

- Student Initiates
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- Gretchen Gierach, MPH
- Hillary Keenan, PhD
- Michael Walsh, MHA
- Angela Feathers, MS
- Hui-Ju Tsai, PhD
- David Huang, MPH
- Amanda Lovallo, MPH

Alumni Initiates

- Neyal J. Ammary (MPH '03)
- Rachel Wildman (PhD '02, MPH '00)

Faculty Initiates

- Candace Kammerer, PhD
- Joel Weissfeld, MD, MPH

Dean's Service Award

- Sanjay Gallhotra, MHA
- Kristine Michelle Cecchetti, MPH, MPA

Omicron Chapter Poster Contest Winner

- Rosemarie Ramos, MPH

Master's Thesis Awards

- Margaret Hsieh, MS
- Charles Rittle, MPH
- Stephanie Dorwart, MHA
- Sumita Ganguly, MS
- Robert Martsof, MPH

Doctoral Dissertation Awards

- Mohammed Alyememi, DrPH
- Zhiwei Zhang, PhD
- Allison Robinson, PhD
- Laryssa Howe, PhD

Spotlight

Doctoral Students Awarded Dean's Scholarships

Four GSPH doctoral students have been awarded \$2,500 Public Health Dean's Scholarships for the fall 2004 semester. **Alina Bodea-Crisan** (BCHS) earned her MD in Romania, where she administered and designed health and community development projects for one of the first international nongovernmental organizations to establish missions in Romania after the fall of the communist regime. **Alana Gregg** (EPI) holds two bachelor's degrees from West Virginia University, one in nutrition and the other in animal and veterinary science. She works as a part-time research assistant for Francesmary Modugno. **Shalini Reshmi-Skarja** (HuGen) works as a graduate student researcher in Susanne Gollin's lab and as a teaching assistant. Recently she was accepted to participate in the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital graduate student symposium. **Nadra Tyus** (BCHS) works with the HIV/AIDS Working Group at the Center for Minority Health and is a board member at Addison Behavioral Care Inc. in East Liberty, where her goal is to "increase their exposure in the public health community so that the children in this agency will experience a better quality of life." The Public Health Dean's Scholarships are presented to students who demonstrate financial need, merit, and service to the community, and the funds can be applied to tuition, books, computer expenses, travel to professional meetings, dues for professional organizations, and other school-related expenses.

Scholarship for the Next 5000 Presented to Four Students

Scholarships from the GSPH Scholarship Endowment: Campaign for the Next 5000 have been awarded to four students in the amount of \$2,500 each.

Dean Bernard D. Goldstein established this fund along with several alumni to commemorate the graduation of the 5,000th student from GSPH in April 2002. The award provides partial tuition support to deserving GSPH students and is awarded based on financial need, merit, diversity, and service to the school. **Jill Montgomery** is a master's degree student in infectious diseases and microbiology. In addition to taking classes, she works in an IDM lab, where she often spends evenings and weekends. **Ina Jones**, a doctoral degree student in BCHS, was highly recommended for her maturity, motivation, and commitment to minority health issues, particularly those arising from HIV/AIDS in African American women. **Linda Berry** will join GSPH as an MPH student in epidemiology this fall. While a student at Pennsylvania State University, she participated in several community service projects, including peer mentoring and recruitment programs. She was also a member of the Student Awareness Committee on Multicultural Affairs. **Genevieve Barrow**, a native of Monrovia, Liberia, is a student in the Department of Biostatistics. Her interests include psychometrics and global health issues.

Fitzpatrick Scholarship Fund Recipient Announced

H. Thomas Berlin Jr., a master's degree student in the Department of Health Policy & Management, has received the Professor Emeritus Thomas B. Fitzpatrick Award. Thomas received a BA in neuroscience/premedicine and government from Franklin & Marshall College and has served as an administrative resident at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, as well as a healthcare manager for Maxim Healthcare Services. The scholarship fund was established in 1986 by multiple donors in remembrance of GSPH Professor Emeritus Thomas B. Fitzpatrick.

Aboka and Browne Named First Duncan Student Resource Fund Recipients

Alexander Aboka, an MMPH student, and **Mario Browne**, a PhD/MPH student in the Department of Behavioral & Community Health Sciences, are the first recipients of the Dr. Edgar and Lauraine Duncan Endowed Fund for Student Resources. Established by Dean Bernard D. Goldstein to honor longtime faculty member Edgar Duncan, this fund offers permanent financial support to deserving master's or doctoral degree students who have demonstrated need. Duncan was the first African American student at GSPH in 1954 and later held the positions of associate dean for academic affairs and interim director for GSPH's Center for Minority Health.

And the Award Goes to...

Rosemarie Ramos (MPH '03), a doctoral student in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, has been selected to be one of 19 students nationwide who will present research at this year's national Delta Omega poster session. The event will take place as part of the American Public Health Association annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in early November. Ramos won both the Delta Omega Poster Award and the Keleti Prize at this year's Dean's Day competition (see page 15).

Three GSPH students have been named Schweitzer Fellows for the 2004-05 term: **Shelley Bhattacharya** is a physician currently serving a policy fellowship and enrolled in the multidisciplinary MPH program; **Shirlee Hopper-Scherch** is a social worker and doctoral candidate in behavioral and community health sciences; and **Ijeoma Maureen Muo** is a medical student in the multidisciplinary MPH program. The Pittsburgh Schweitzer Fellows Program is one of six such programs in the nation, based on

Albert Schweitzer's philosophy of reverence for life, which challenges students to act on their idealism by serving needy individuals and communities. This one-year interdisciplinary fellowship program, focused on community service, leadership development, and reflection, serves as the entry year in becoming a Fellow for Life. Fellows receive an educational award of \$2,000 during the course of the fellowship year.

Rashida Dorsey, a doctoral student in epidemiology, was awarded the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award, a doctoral fellowship from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The award, designed to enhance racial and ethnic diversity in the health service research sciences, provides support for research training leading toward a PhD or equivalent research degree. Dorsey, sponsored by assistant professor of epidemiology Thomas Songer, was awarded funding for two years based on her research proposal titled "Screening for Complications among Insulin-Treated Persons with Diabetes."

Shalini Reshmi-Skarja, a doctoral student in the Department of Human Genetics, was awarded a travel scholarship by the 38th Biennial American Cytogenetics Conference based on her research titled "Chromosomal Fragile Site Breakage May Be Associated with 11q13 Gene Amplification in Oral Cancer." Reshmi was one of 40 senior doctoral students nationwide invited to present research at the third annual St. Jude graduate student symposium in Memphis, Tenn., this past April.

Vidisha Kini, a doctoral student in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, won the Maryanne Stock Student Research Award from the Allegheny-Erie Regional Chapter of the Society of Toxicology. The \$1,000 award is designed to encourage students to formulate and conduct meaningful research in the field of toxicology and to assist in supporting such research.

Inaugural C.C. Li Lecture Presented by Aravinda Chakravarti



Members of the Li family with Robert Ferrell (far left), professor and former chair of GSPH's Department of Human Genetics, and speaker Aravinda Chakravarti (second from right), former GSPH faculty member.

Aravinda Chakravarti, PhD, delivered the inaugural C.C. Li Memorial Lecture, titled "Genes for Common Diseases: Association Studies," in April to an audience of nearly 180 people in Parran Hall's Public Health Auditorium. Sponsored by the Department of Human Genetics, the lecture was established in honor of C.C. Li, professor emeritus of human genetics and biostatistics, who died October 20, 2003.

As he spoke, Chakravarti, a GSPH professor of biostatistics and human genetics from 1980 to 1994, also paid tribute to his mentor's memory with anecdotes and photographs. "If you want to affect the world, teach the students," Chakravarti recalled Li often advising his younger colleague. "He always wrote books for students and for the next generation," he said.

In fact, Chakravarti had been a student himself in 1972 at the Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta when first introduced to Li in Li's classic 1961 textbook *Human Genetics: Principles and Methods*. Chakravarti noted his appreciation, even as an undergraduate, of Li's clear, straightforward writing and scientific brilliance. "But most of what he did in education has been a lifelong labor of love on his part," said Chakravarti. "This education not only had to do

with teaching students the rudiments of genetics or the rudiments of statistics, but what genetics means, how genetics affects our lives, and how important it is to be objective in science."

Chakravarti is director of the McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and editor of the journal *Genome Research*. His research is aimed at genomic-scale analysis of the human genome and understanding the molecular genetic basis of common genetic disorders using contemporary genomic tools. He is an expert on computational biology and a geneticist known for his studies of predisposing genetic factors in such common and complex human diseases as diabetes, heart disease, and mental illness.

Editor's Notes: To learn more about the C.C. Li Memorial Lecture or the C.C. Li Endowed Research and Education Fund established by Dr. and Mrs. Li and friends, or to hear audio of Chakravarti's lecture, please visit GSPH's web site at www.publichealth.pitt.edu/specialevents/lilecture/index.html.

Audio can also be accessed directly by visiting <http://cidde-msl.cidde.pitt.edu>, clicking on Graduate School of Public Health from the list on the left side of screen, and then choosing the appropriate lecture. Audio can only be accessed using Microsoft Explorer.

Roundup

Check Out the Latest GSPH News

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health has awarded Pitt an estimated \$14.5 million to develop novel approaches to improve the outcomes of pediatric heart transplant recipients. The grant brings together experts in pediatric cardiology and transplant medicine, transplant surgery, immunology, pharmacology, infectious diseases, molecular genetics, and biostatistics from the School of Medicine, GSPH, and the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute, as well as from Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. **David T. Rowe**, associate professor of infectious diseases and microbiology, will serve as principal investigator of one of three clinical studies to be conducted. Through studies of Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) infection and immune response, Rowe and his colleagues will track EBV viral loads and the behavior of the virus leading to post-transplant lymphoproliferative disease. **Robert Ferrell**, professor and former chair of the Department of Human Genetics, will serve as co-investigator on a second study examining genetic markers that may be predictive of an individual's transplant outcome and the reasons African Americans do worse with transplants than other groups. **Sheryl F. Kelsey**, professor of epidemiology, and **Maria Mori Brooks**, assistant professor of epidemiology, will lead one of four cores supporting the center's clinical projects.

Behavioral and Community Health Sciences

Assistant professors **Ravi Sharma** and **Kenneth Jaros** are among 11 Pitt faculty whose teaching proposals have been selected for funding under the Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence's Innovation in Education Awards program. Their project, "Community Health Needs Assessment: A Problem- and Computer-Based Interactive Learning Approach,"

will use a problem-based approach to teaching students the process of community health needs assessment through computer-based interactive learning. The awards, instituted in 2000 by Provost James Maher, encourage instructional development and teaching excellence throughout the University's schools and departments.



Seung-Hyun Yoo

Seung-Hyun Yoo, research assistant professor, was the recipient of a Steven D. Manners Faculty Development Award from the University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) for her work titled "Development of an Interdisciplinary Working Group for New Media and Violence Research." The goal of the study is to establish a network of scholars across the disciplines of social sciences, public health, information science, and arts and sciences who have expertise and interest in new media such as the Internet, video and computer games, and animation and their effects on human behavior. The objective of this network was to build an interdisciplinary working group to integrate expertise from multiple disciplines and to develop a research initiative on new media and human behavior.

Biostatistics

The Department of Biostatistics has added four new faculty members to its ranks, all assistant professors in biostatistics. **Lan Kong** collaborates in the CRISMA Laboratory (Clinical Research, Investigation, and Systems Modeling of Acute Illness) at the Department of Critical Care Medicine and earned both her MS and her PhD at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. **Chien-Cheng (George) Tseng** focuses his research on developing statistical and computational methods for large scale genomic data. He earned his ScD at Harvard University. **Abdus Wahed** earned his doctorate in statistics at North Carolina State University. His research interests lie in multistage randomization designs, censored data analysis, survival analysis, longitudinal data analysis, and causal inference. **Yookyung Kim** has centered her research on applications of measurement and statistical theories to health science research. She also serves as assistant professor of health and community systems at the School of Nursing.

Environmental and Occupational Health

GSPH Dean **Bernard Goldstein** is a voting member on a landmark World Health Organization (WHO) committee that will decide whether formaldehyde should be listed as a known human carcinogen. A recent report from the National Cancer Institute indicated a possible increase in leukemia incidence in epidemiological studies of workers exposed to formaldehyde. Goldstein, an internationally recognized expert on environmental health issues, attended a meeting of WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer in June in Lyon, France.

In April, Goldstein gave a luncheon talk at the United Nations Delegates Dining Room titled "Precautionary Principle and Environmental Health: U.S.-European Differences," cosponsored by the governments of Ukraine and Croatia.

Goldstein will also head a committee for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences documenting research opportunities for the new incoming director of that institute. The committee is called the Fifth Task Force for Research Planning in Environmental Health Sciences.

As secretary-general of the International Union of Toxicologists (IUTOX), Professor **Meryl Karol** had the opportunity to welcome Professor Dr. Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol of Thailand to the Third International Congress of Toxicology held in Bangkok, Thailand, in February. Princess Chulabhorn, an accomplished toxicologist, delivered the keynote lecture at the event following Karol's opening address. IUTOX represents more than 19,000 toxicologists in 38 countries with the aim of promoting acquisition, dissemination, and utilization of knowledge of toxicology.



Professor Meryl Karol, IUTOX secretary-general, greets Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol of Thailand at the third international congress in Bangkok.

Koichi Takimoto, assistant professor, has received a grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for research titled, "Regulation of KV Channels by Anorexigens."



Left to right: Lucienne Wald and Niel Wald, now professor emeritus, with Dean Bernard D. Goldstein at Niel's retirement party.

Conrad Daniel Volz (MPH '97, DrPH '02), assistant professor in the department as well as with GSPH's Center for Public Health Practice, spent most of the summer working on Amchitka Island in Alaska as project director of a major scientific expedition. This \$3 million study is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy through the independent Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation (CRESP), and allows Volz to investigate the potential health and ecological consequences of radioactivity from the site of the nation's largest underground nuclear explosion.

In June, the department and GSPH bid farewell to **Niel Wald** at a retirement party in the GSPH lounge. Wald retired from his position as professor in EOH in March after 41 years of service to the school and the University as a specialist in radiation health. Wald is now a professor emeritus in the department.

Samuel J. Watson, associate professor of public health practice, is one of several collaborators on the Pittsburgh Matrix, a roadmap of sorts developed by UPMC to streamline decision making regarding quarantine and deployment of resources during a bioterrorist attack and to allow

for preplanning of crisis decision-making. This emergency response application has the potential to be an effective method for computing survivorship, medical costs for response, and options for treatment of specific bioterror agents. The project is funded through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Integrated Delivery System Research Network.

Daniel M. Zuckerman has joined the department as an assistant professor. His research is focused on the development of algorithms and software for understanding the molecular basis of protein behavior, especially large conformational changes and binding events. Zuckerman earned his PhD in physics at the University of Maryland.

Epidemiology

Roberta Ness, professor and chair, has been named to the prestigious American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI), also known as the "Young Turks." ASCI is an honor society for physician-scientists ages 45 or younger at the time of their election who have exceptional records of scholarly achievement in biomedical

research. Ness and five other University faculty members join 30 Pitt faculty members who have already been elected to ASCI.

Janice Dorman (PhD '83, MSHyg '81), former professor and associate dean of research, has accepted the position of associate dean for scientific and international affairs at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing. While at GSPH, Dorman helped develop one of the first molecular epidemiology research and teaching programs, including a molecular epidemiology laboratory and course for epidemiology students.

Assistant Professor **Joseph Zmuda** received a \$500,000 grant from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases. The funding was awarded for a study of bone loss among men of African heritage in Tobago, with the goal of learning more about the determinants of skeletal health in non-White men.

Health Policy & Management

Assistant Professor **Patricia Sweeney** (MPH '03) was the recipient of the 2004 Pfizer Faculty Scholar Award in Public Health for her project, titled "Public Health Workforce Recruitment, Retention and Promotion in the Civil Service System." Sweeney, also with the Center for Public Health Practice, plans to use the \$130,000 award to conduct a two-year national study examining public health hiring and promotion within civil service systems. The study will identify a model for competency-based assessment of personnel that could be used in public health personnel systems. Part of the Pfizer Medical and Academic Partnerships grants, the Pfizer Faculty Scholar Awards in Public Health are nationally competitive career development awards designed for junior faculty pursuing community-based public health practice research.

Two new faculty members have joined the department: **Nicholas G. Castle** graduated with distinction with an MHA from Wilkes University in 1991 and completed his PhD in health policy and administration at Pennsylvania State University in 1994. He most recently worked as a health policy analyst at Rand Corp. **Julie M. Donohue** earned her doctorate in health policy at Harvard University. She has been at Harvard since 1998, most recently in the Medical School's Department of Ambulatory Care and Prevention, where she worked as a pharmaceutical policy research post-doctoral fellow.

Samuel Friede, manager of governance initiatives at the Health Policy Institute and assistant professor, has been elected president of Southwestern Pennsylvania Healthcare Executives (SPHE). SPHE works to improve networking and educational and professional advancement for the region's healthcare executives and managers.

Human Genetics

Assistant Professor **Michael Barmada** received a \$450,000 grant from the National Center for Research Resources to establish a shared computational resource to assist in statistical genetics, cytogenesis, and databasing research.



Patricia Sweeney

Robert Ferrell has resigned as chair of the department for health reasons. Professors **Daniel Weeks** and **Ilyas Kamboh** will assume leadership of the department for the next year. Weeks has been with GSPH since 1990 and also serves as professor in GSPH's Department of Biostatistics. Weeks' research focuses on statistical human genetics in the area of mapping susceptibility loci involved in complex human diseases. Kamboh has been with GSPH's Department of Human Genetics since 1991 and previously served as an assistant professor at what was the Human Genetics Division of the Department of Biostatistics. His research interests include the genetics of cardiovascular disease, Alzheimer's disease, and antiphospholipid autoantibodies. Kamboh is a member of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute and is the winner of a 2003 Excellence in Science Award.

Professor **Susanne M. Gollin** has been appointed a member of the Immunology Devices Panel of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. She has also been invited to serve on the Scientific Committee of the 10th International Congress on Oral Cancer, which will take place in Crete, Greece. In addition, Gollin chaired a session on cancer genetics at the biennial 38th American Cytogenetics Conference in Stevenson, Wash., where she also presented a lecture titled "Haploinsufficiency for Damage Response Genes in Tumor Cells with 11q13 Amplification."

Robin Grubs (MS '91, PhD '02) joins the department as assistant professor and codirector of the genetic counseling program. Grubs received both her MS and PhD degrees in genetic counseling from GSPH and will focus her research on studying the human dilemmas that arise when individuals are confronted with the option of genetic testing.



Charles R. Rinaldo Jr.

Infectious Diseases and Microbiology

Charles R. Rinaldo Jr., professor and chair, is the recipient of a Method to Extend Research in Time (MERIT) Award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for his research on methods of improving immune control of residual HIV-1 viral infection during highly active antiretroviral therapy. Fewer than five percent of NIH-funded investigators are selected to receive MERIT Awards.



Todd Reinhart

Todd Reinhart, associate professor of infectious diseases and microbiology, has had to make a tough decision—how best to use the funds from the Dr. James L. Craig Endowed Excellence in Education Award he received at graduation this spring. Presented annually to recognize teaching excellence at GSPH, the award is given to a faculty member who is nominated by students and alumni and approved by a committee of faculty and students. The award is typically used to enhance faculty teaching at GSPH, and Reinhart's use of the funds will be no exception. His plans include the purchase of a tablet PC with stylus pen for Power-Point presentations and a high-resolution

scanner to aid in lecture preparation, and attendance at a teaching workshop or seminar. Reinhart added, "I would like to get assistance from the staff in the Faculty Instructional Development group in identifying a good book or two on teaching graduate students. I believe they are out there, but I need to find them." James L. Craig (MPH '63), a distinguished alumnus of GSPH, established the Craig Award through a generous endowment of \$50,000.

The University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing honored **Linda Frank** with a Distinguished Alumni Award at a gala dinner in May. Frank's distinguished career has included the development and implementation of training curricula for prison healthcare providers, probation and parole officers and peer educators within state correctional facilities, and service on a number of state and national AIDS planning coalitions, councils, and boards. Frank is an assistant professor and principal investigator/executive director of the Pennsylvania/Mid-Atlantic AIDS Education and Training Center, and directs the communicable disease and behavioral health MPH program.

Centers

The Heinz Endowments has awarded GSPH a \$50,000 planning grant and \$200,000 in additional funding to establish a **Center for Environmental and**

Community Health. Using a community-based approach to assess and improve environmental health, the center will be a model for building alliances designed to mobilize multiple stakeholders to improve local environmental health and well-being. A unique component of the center is its adoption of a community-derived definition of environmental health to guide its activities, which will include socioeconomic as well as lifestyle and behavioral factors that influence health. In addition to conventional environmental hazards such as air and water pollution, the center will address the impact of urban sprawl and bad neighborhoods on health and well-being. The center will also consider modifiable health-related environmental risk factors (e.g., smoking and nutrition) as well as the physical and social environmental determinants that influence individual actions. The center will initially focus its efforts on food, homes, neighborhoods, and outdoor air pollution—four environmental issues that are especially important for local health and wellness.

The **Epidemiology Data Center** celebrated the official grand opening of its \$1 million addition with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in February. The addition increases the center's space by 3,600 square feet and houses workstations and offices to help accommodate the center's 125 faculty and staff.



Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Epidemiology Data Center. Left to right: Dean Bernard D. Goldstein; Arthur S. Levine, senior vice chancellor for the health sciences and dean of the school of medicine; Epidemiology Data Center Director Katherine Detre, professor, Department of Epidemiology; Roberta Ness, professor and chair, Department of Epidemiology, and Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg.



The Honorable Tommy Thompson (left) presents an award to Stephen Thomas and the Center for Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' 40th anniversary celebration of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In July, the **Center for Minority Health (CMH)** was one of seven programs nationwide to be honored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services during a 40th anniversary celebration of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The recognition was a result of the center's achievements in closing the gap on eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities.

CMH has received approximately \$2.1 million from the Pennsylvania Department of Health to provide state-wide technical assistance to ethnic, racial, and disparate populations; primary contractors; and service providers to establish tobacco cessation programs. This continues a contract between the Department of Health and CMH, which has been in effect since 2001 and comes from the tobacco settlement fund for the Pennsylvania Tobacco Prevention Clearinghouse.

Stephen Thomas, director of CMH and Philip Hallen Professor of Community Health and Social Justice, has been selected to serve on the National Academies/National Research Council Committee on Physical, Medical, and Mental Health Standards for Youth

Population Military Recruitment. The committee will critically examine current physical and medical standards for military enlistment with the goal of informing military policy-makers of factors that should be considered in designing standards that can help predict success in military jobs.

The Harvard School of Public Health chose Thomas to receive the 2004 Alonzo Smythe Yerby Award. Harvard sponsors this award to recognize public health leaders in the country who serve as role models, particularly for those of disadvantaged backgrounds. The annual award and accompanying lecture commemorate Yerby's commitment to community welfare and the health concerns of the poor.

In January, Thomas delivered the Nicholas C. Tucci Lecture titled "The Color Line: Why Race Matters in the Elimination of Health Disparities" at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. The lecture provides a forum for nationally recognized speakers to discuss pharmacy-related issues and coincides with the school's annual Pharmacy Week celebration.

On April 15, the University of Pittsburgh launched the **Center for National Preparedness (CNP)**. An initiative of Vice Provost for Research George Klinzing, the center will promote multidisciplinary research and collaborative efforts from researchers, engineers, policy experts, and clinical faculty from all areas within the University. The center will be codirected by **Margaret A. Potter**, associate dean of public health practice; Bernard Hibbitts from the School of Law; and Ken Sochats from the School of Information Sciences.

In June, **David Pipozar (MPH '98)** resigned from his position as executive director with the **Center for Public Health Preparedness**. Pipozar will continue teaching courses for GSPH's emergency preparedness and disaster response certificate program with assistant professor of behavioral and community health sciences Gail Cairns.

Michael Meit, director of the **Center for Rural Health Practice** at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford and cochair for rural preparedness with the **Center for Public Health Preparedness**, has been appointed to the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services (NACRHHS), a group charged with advising the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on rural health and human services issues. NACRHHS is a 21-member citizens' panel of nationally recognized rural health experts reflecting wide-ranging, firsthand experience with rural issues, including medicine, nursing, administration, finance, law, research, business, public health, aging, welfare, and human services. Meit will serve as the committee's expert on rural public health.

In April, the **Center for Rural Health Practice** released "Bridging the Health Divide: The Rural Public Health Research Agenda." Based on the findings

of 57 rural public health researchers, the report frames issues affecting rural health and provides ideas and suggestions for future research activities that will advance efforts to develop initiatives and programs to reduce health disparities between rural and nonrural programs. Visit www.upb.pitt.edu/crhp to view the report in PDF format.

Healthcare providers from seven states gathered in Harrisburg, Pa., for two days in March to participate in the First Regional Conference on Case Finding and Secondary Prevention: A Proactive Response to Prevention in Primary Care. Sponsored by the **Pennsylvania/Mid-Atlantic AIDS Education and Training Center** in collaboration with the Bureau of Communicable Diseases in the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the conference focused on new federal guidelines

for HIV prevention and updated health professionals on new treatments for HIV/AIDS patient care and HIV prevention. The conference featured presentations and panel discussions with health specialists on a range of topics, including best practices for rapid HIV tests, secondary prevention, drug risk assessment, and behavior change.

These two organizations also collaborated on the HIV Treatment and Medication Update Meetings for Human Service Professionals, a series of one-day programs in March and April. The series described current treatment options and Pennsylvania programs available for individuals with HIV/AIDS; provided ethical decision-making models for application in practice settings; and examined legal issues concerning HIV testing, confidentiality, and HIV patient rights.

The **Center for Healthy Aging (CHA)** is working with other universities across the country to conduct an environmental audit aimed at better comprehending why older adults aren't walking in their neighborhoods.

CHA, through its ambassador program, is partnering with the McKeesport Meals on Wheels to provide informational brochures regarding healthy aging to area residents who receive prepared meals.

CHA is also involved in the planning committee of the National Senior Games (Senior Olympics), which will be held in Pittsburgh next June. More than 35,000 senior athletes from around the country are expected to participate.



Speakers Kate Rowlands and Gino Strada prepare for the lecture.

Emergency Cofounder Lectures on Middle Eastern Civilian War Victims

In his second visit to GSPH in as many years, Nobel Prize nominee Gino Strada, cofounder and chief surgeon of Emergency, a humanitarian organization aiding victims of war, brought home the hard realities of war through a presentation about his work with civilian war victims in the war-torn countries of Iraq and Afghanistan. Following a screening of the documentary *The Desert Rainbow*, which details Emergency's activities in Iraq during 2003, Strada gave an overview of the emergency medical services the organization has provided to nearly a million patients since 1994 in regions including Sierra Leone, Cambodia, and Rwanda. Emergency's medical coordinator, Kate Rowlands, then discussed Emergency's work in Afghanistan, with a particular focus on the newly established maternity center in the Panjshir Valley.

In his introduction of Strada and Rowlands, Alberto Colombi (MPH '97) said, "Emergency builds and runs hospitals so that the wounds can be the beginning of healing. The hospital is a practical metaphor—not just the place to mend broken bodies, but also the place to restore human relationships based on respect and solidarity." Colombi is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences and corporate medical director of PPG Industries.

Emergency is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to providing humanitarian support to civilian war victims, who, according to Strada, make up 90 percent of all war victims. The organization has been present in Iraq since 1995, and it has established two surgical centers there (in Sulaimaniya and Erbil) with a third

center under construction in Karbala. Emergency also runs three rehabilitation and social reintegration centers, a pediatric burn unit, an adult burn unit, a spinal unit, and 22 first aid posts, employing more than 700 Iraqi health staff. Emergency began its operations in Afghanistan in 1999 and currently operates two surgical centers there (in Anabah and Kabul), with a third center under construction in Lashkar Gah. Also in Afghanistan, Emergency runs 26 public health clinics and first aid posts, a prison program, and a pediatric and maternity center. The Afghanistan facilities employ more than 500 local health staff.

Profile

Four Receive Alumni Awards

As a scientist with Science Applications International Corp. in McLean, Va., **Allen Brodsky** (ScD '66) has examined veterans' exposure to radiation as a result of nuclear weapons tests and has consulted with various installations on radiation protection requirements. He has published numerous chapters and reference works for radiological health practitioners over the years, including the multivolume *Handbook of Radiation Measurement and Protection*. In 1986, he published *Review of Radiation Risks and Uranium Toxicity*, which reviews the epidemiology and statistical calculations that led to international standards of radiation protection over the years and discusses the monitoring of certain low levels of radioactivity and uranium in the environment. This summer, Brodsky published his latest work, *Public Protection from Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Terrorism* (see page 16 for a profile). Brodsky has served as an adjunct professor in the Department of Radiation Science at Georgetown University since the mid-80s and is a recipient of the Health Physics Society's prestigious Robley D. Evans Commemorative Medal for scientific and educational contributions to radiation protection. Prior to studying biostatistics and radiation health at GSPH, Brodsky earned both a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and master's degree in physics from Johns Hopkins University. "I owe much of my life experiences to [Niel] Wald and much to faculty and colleagues such as Ted Hatch, C.C. Li, my wonderful doctoral advisor Donovan Thompson, and many others, including my students," said Brodsky.

Jane Cauley (MPH '80, DrPH '83) is an internationally recognized leader in the epidemiology and treatment of women's health issues, including osteoporosis, breast cancer, and heart disease. As a professor in GSPH's Department of



Left to right: David Savitz, Jane Cauley, Allen Brodsky, and Marlene Lugg were award winners at the annual alumni dinner in April.

Epidemiology, she is the principal investigator of a National Institute of Aging training grant in aging epidemiology and serves as co-investigator of four major National Institutes of Health-sponsored observational studies. She has authored more than 200 publications and has taught Epidemiology of Aging at GSPH for 15 years. In addition to her GSPH degrees, Cauley holds a BSN from Boston College.

Chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina School of Public Health for the past eight years, **David Savitz** (PhD '82) has focused his research and teaching on the areas of reproductive, environmental, occupational, and cancer epidemiology. He is also a member of the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. Savitz earned his master's degree in preventive medicine from The Ohio State University. "I am honored to be recognized with this award," Savitz said. "As a graduate, [I know that] the value of my degree depends not just on the school as it was then, but on its current fortunes as well. In the short time that Bernie Goldstein has been dean, the achievements really are remarkable and make me prouder than ever to have studied here."

Marlene Lugg (MPH '66, DrPH '81) has devoted countless hours to service organizations including the Girl Scouts of the USA, Boy Scouts of America, and the American Red Cross. She has been a volunteer Girl Scout leader for nearly 50 years, is a merit badge counselor with the Boy Scouts, and the author of the current national requirements for

the Boy Scouts' Public Health Merit Badge. She was the first scout leader to receive the national Take Pride in America Award, the first to be named to the United Nations Environment Programme's list of 500 Outstanding USA Conservationists, and the first and only female scout leader to receive the William T. Hornaday Gold Medal for environmental service. She currently is a Leave No Trace master educator, as well as a volunteer instructor with the American Red Cross, teaching first aid/CPR and emergency response courses within her community. Lugg is an immunization coordinator/project manager with Kaiser Permanente in Panorama City, Calif., where she coordinates and manages immunization practice, conducts outreach programs, and serves as co-investigator on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-funded Vaccine Safety Datalink study. "I remember with gratitude the many instructors who made it possible for me to learn and love the field of public health," said Lugg. "From Dr. William Hammon, I learned epidemiology, and [Russell] Rycheck was a new instructor in the department at that time. Others included Nathan Hershey, [Gordon] MacLeod, and [Gerald] St. Denis. Professor Ray Elling and his family became lifetime friends." Lugg is the 2004 recipient of the Margaret Gloninger Award, presented annually to a GSPH alumnus who has made a significant contribution to GSPH or to the community through volunteer service. During her acceptance remarks, Lugg spoke movingly about Gloninger, her former classmate for whom the award is named.

GSPH Convenes State Asthma Summit

With the perturbing rise in the prevalence of asthma, the Pennsylvania Department of Health asked GSPH to host a summit on the chronic respiratory disease. In August, GSPH brought together more than 200 leaders in the academic and service communities as well as local and state government for a daylong conference. The meeting was in preparation for the development of an asthma control plan to meet federal Healthy People 2010 objectives for asthma.

"The purpose of the summit was to bring together various stakeholders and vested parties regarding asthma in Pennsylvania," said **Mark V. White** (MPH '00), who was recently appointed the asthma epidemiologist for the Pennsylvania Department of Health. "We wanted to identify the scope of the asthma problem in Pennsylvania, dispel some of the myths, generally increase awareness of the consequences of untreated or mistreated asthma, and inventory the existing resources. The bottom line was to get a baseline handle on where we are in Pennsylvania regarding asthma—find out what we know and who is doing what."

Asthma is one of the leading chronic illnesses of children under 18 years of age in the United States, said White. Nationally about 5 percent of all adults and about 7 percent of children under 18 have been diagnosed with asthma. Statistics suggest that in the past decade the prevalence of asthma may have increased by as much as 42 percent. In the 2002–03 school year, 9.2 percent of Pennsylvania schoolchildren had physician-diagnosed asthma, White said.

The opening session of the summit, titled "Why Asthma, Why Now?" offered an overview that featured speakers from federal, state, and local governments, including Calvin Johnson, Pennsylvania's secretary of health; Dawn Jacobson from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and Bruce Dixon,

director of the Allegheny County Health Department. Herb Sendek, head basketball coach at North Carolina State University, followed with the keynote address "Asthma, Athletics, and Aspirations." Other general sessions included presentations on a family's life with asthma, coalition building, and reaching Healthy People 2010 goals to eliminate health disparities and increase the quality and length of healthy life.

In the afternoon, participants rolled up their sleeves in workshop sessions covering school- and work-related issues, exercise and asthma, indoor and outdoor environmental issues, community education and outreach, insights and opportunities for prevention, and access and barriers to care. **C. Michael Blackwood** (MHA '80), president and CEO of Gateway Health Plan, William Calhoun, medical director of the Asthma, Allergy, and Airway Research Center at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and Arthur Frank, professor and chair of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at Drexel University, helped conclude the program by offering a summary of the day's discussions and related goals for the future. GSPH Dean **Bernard Goldstein** presented the opening and closing remarks.

Janice S. Dorman (MsHyg '81, PhD '83), GSPH professor of epidemiology and associate dean for research, chaired the daylong conference, with **Meryl Karol**, professor of environmental and occupational health and associate dean for academic affairs, serving as course director.

Lois Michaels (MSHYG '63), who cochaired the planning committee for the summit along with **Conrad Volz** (MPH '97, DrPH '02), GSPH assistant professor of environmental and occupational health, was especially pleased that the 30-plus members of the planning committee brought a diverse group of stakeholders to the table from the eastern, central, and western parts of the state. "We're looking at the whole state in terms of dealing with this population-based issue," she said.

The GSPH faculty were well represented as presenters and members of the planning committee, including **Jay Harper**, clinical assistant professor of occupational medicine; **Andrea Kriska**, associate professor of epidemiology; **Rosemarie Ramos**, environmental and occupational health graduate student researcher; **Evelyn Talbott**, professor of epidemiology; and **Stephen B. Thomas**, director of the Center for Minority Health and Philip Hallen Professor of Community Health and Social Justice.



Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Calvin B. Johnson talks with Dean Bernard D. Goldstein at the asthma summit.

Notebook

GSPH Grads Share News and Notes

New Alumni Society Officers Elected

Among the important business that took place during the annual meeting of the GSPH Alumni Society in June was the election of officers for the 2004–05 term. Elected president of the society was **Karen Peterson** (MPH '70), former assistant professor of behavioral and community health sciences at GSPH who also served as coordinator of the department's MPH and DrPH programs. **Ursula McKenzie** (MPH '97) was elected vice president, while **Chad Rittle** (MPH '03) was elected member-at-large for a two-year term. Re-elected or continuing for a second year were **Linda Fowler** (MPH '86, DrPH '97) as secretary/treasurer and **Kristi Riccio** (MPH '02) as corresponding secretary. In addition, **Rosemarie Ramos** (MPH '03) will continue as member-at-large. Biographies of each officer are available in the alumni section of the GSPH Web site.

1960s

Ronald Kathren (MSHyg '62) of Richland, Wash., received the 2003 Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award from the Health Physics Society. Kathren is professor emeritus of the U.S. Transuranium and Uranium Registries at Washington State University Tri-Cities.

1970s

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) honored **Ralph W. Hingson** (MPH '70) by establishing a new National President's Award in his name. The Ralph W. Hingson Research in Practice Award will be given annually to someone whose research is of great value to MADD's mission. Hingson is a professor of social and behavioral



Alumni society officers left to right: Chad Rittle (MPH '03), Kristi Riccio (MPH '02), Linda Fowler (MPH '86, DrPH '97), Karen Peterson (MPH '70), Bill Green (MPH '01), and Ursula McKenzie (MPH '97)

sciences and associate dean for research in the Boston University School of Public Health and is an expert on community and legal interventions to reduce alcohol-impaired driving.

Dennis S. Palkon (MPH '76) is professor and former chair of health administration at Florida Atlantic University. Palkon is co-author of the book *Cutting Costs in the Physician Practice*, published by the American Medical Association.

Jean Williams Warren (MPH '73) recently retired as disaster coordinator for her church. She currently resides in Vero Beach, Fla.

1980s

Virginia "Ginger" Carpino (Woomer) (MPH '83) is a social worker at Fauquier Hospital in Warrenton, Va. She serves on the hospital's education, ethics, and spirituality committees and is on the board of Hospice Support of Fauquier County. She also serves as liaison reporting to the Planetree Steering Committee at Fauquier Hospital.

William Hoon (MPH '81) recently completed one week of service for the Army Reserve Command in Afghanistan. Hoon was stationed at the Bagram Air Force Base, where he provided dental services to coalition soldiers. A full colonel since 2002, Hoon has dedicated his services to the reserves for more than 23 years. Upon arriving home from Afghanistan, Hoon, age 58, qualified for the Senior Olympics triathlon event. The Senior Olympics will be hosted for the first time by Pittsburgh in June 2005.

David Savitz (PhD '82) has been named a Cary C. Boshamer Distinguished Professor at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill. Savitz is professor and chair of epidemiology at UNC, with research interests in reproductive, environmental, and cancer epidemiology.

1990s

Daniel Lackland (DrPH '90) is professor and director of graduate training at the Medical University of South Carolina. He is also president-elect of the American Heart Association's Mid-Atlantic Affiliate.

Lisa K. Ryan (PhD '92) is an assistant professor at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Her research centers on the pathogenesis of influenza virus and the host response of the immune system, focusing on plasmacytoid dendritic cells and defensins. She gave birth to her third child, Michael Diamond, in June 2001.

2000s

In Mommy's Garden: A Book to Help Explain Cancer to Young Children, a book written by **Neyal J. Ammary** (MPH '03) while she was still a student at GSPH, has been published by Canyon Beach Visual Communications (<http://books.canyonbeach.com/inmommysgarden>; see a profile of the book on page 16). Ammary was also chosen for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Emerging Leaders Program, a two-year assignment that provides training in departmental core competencies as well as multiple job rotations so participants can become familiar with the people and programs across the DHHS.

Kristine Cecchetti (MPH/MPA '04) is the administrator of marketing and development in GSPH's Office of the Dean, where she assists in the coordination and execution of marketing, alumni, development, and public relations programs and events.

Devona Delach (MPH/MPA '04) is a Presidential Management Fellow with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in Baltimore, Md. This two-year fellowship program is designed for those with an interest in the analysis and management of public policies and programs and allows rotations to other federal agencies during the first year. Delach will work as an analyst assisting in the implementation of the new Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003.

Kimberly Faulkner (PhD '04) is a postdoctoral fellow with GSPH's Department of Epidemiology. Faulkner's recent work includes an article in the May 2004 issue of *Annals of Epidemiology*—"Hearing Sensitivity and the Risk of Incident Falls and Fracture in Older Women: The Study of Osteoporotic Fractures."

Idethia Harvey (DrPH '04) has assumed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan through the Kellogg Community Health Scholars Program. Harvey is a former Albert Schweitzer Fellow and was the recipient of the Women's Studies Student Research Fund Award.

Laryssa Howe (PhD '04) is studying veterinary medicine in New Zealand.

Wilfred Johnson (DrPH '04) is currently serving as a public health analyst and scholar with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Rockville, Md.

Judith Kaufman (DrPH '03) is an instructor in the Department of Health Promotion & Development for the University of Pittsburgh's School of Nursing.

Mary Kelley (PhD '04) has accepted a position in the Department of Biostatistics at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.

John Lemos (MPH '04) is enrolled at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

Amanda Lovallo (MPH '03) graduated from Pitt's School of Medicine in May and is doing an emergency medicine residency with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Michael Miller (DrPH '04) is an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at Drake University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Elizabeth Purchase-Helzner (PhD '04) was the lead author of a May 2004 article, "Hearing Sensitivity and the Risk of Incident Falls and Fracture in Older Women: The Study of Osteoporotic Fractures," that appeared in *Annals of Epidemiology*.

Yong Joo Rhee (DrPH '04) is currently serving as a research associate with the Glennan Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology at the Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Zhiwei Zhang (PhD '03) is a tenure-stream faculty member at the University of North Dakota.

Keep In Touch!

Have you changed jobs? Earned another degree or special award? Did you get married or have a baby? Did you relocate? Keep your alma mater and fellow graduates informed of the changes in your life. Simply return the enclosed reply card; visit the alumni information section of the Web site, www.publichealth.pitt.edu; or send us an e-mail at contact@gsph.dean.gspht.pitt.edu. We'll publish your updates in the next issue of *PublicHealth*.

In Memoriam

Dr. Arlene W. Caggiula, associate professor emeritus in the Department of Epidemiology, died of injuries from a fall on May 22, 2004, at the age of 62. Dr. Caggiula was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1941. She earned her master's degree from the University of Delaware



in food and nutrition science and her PhD from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Education, where she researched ways to educate adults on health and nutrition. At GSPH, she received numerous grants from the National Institutes of Health to carry out research on the best nutritional approaches to prevent and treat hypertension, high cholesterol, and renal disease. Dr. Caggiula was instrumental in the Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial project conducted in the 1970s, through which she designed nutritional programs and counseling that successfully reduced participants' hypertension and cholesterol. She was also an active researcher in the Women's Health Initiative. At the time of her death, Dr. Caggiula was writing a Norwegian cookbook combining her passion for cooking, her heritage, and her professional nutrition skills. Dr. Caggiula is survived by her husband, Anthony R. Caggiula, professor and chair of Pitt's Department of Psychology.

Mr. Ewing "Butch" H. Crawfis (MPH '70), of Bellefontaine, Ohio, died on January 26, 2004, at the age of 64.



Mr. Crawfis served as administrator of Mary Rutan Hospital in Bellefontaine for 30 years. As chief executive officer and president of the hospital, he helped

build a modern, state-of-the-art healthcare system, including an imaging center that bears his name. Mr. Crawfis received his BS in education from The Ohio State University in 1961 and his master's degree in public health administration from GSPH in 1970. Mr. Crawfis began his career in 1970 as an assistant administrator at Community Hospital in Springfield, where he served until 1974. He later served as regional director and chair of the board of the American Academy of Administrators with diplomat status, as well as chair of the Ohio State Health Network, the West Central Ohio Regional Healthcare Alliance, and the Ohio Hospital Association's political action committee. In addition, Mr. Crawfis was a member of The Cancer Network of West Central Ohio. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, and nine grandchildren.

Emeritus faculty member **Dr. Thomas F. Mancuso** died July 4, 2004, at age 92 from esophageal cancer in Oakland, Calif. Recognized worldwide for his contributions to occupational epidemiology and for his scientific integrity, Dr. Mancuso devoted his career to the study of long-term effects of workplace health hazards. He served as chief of the state of Ohio's Division of Industrial Hygiene from 1945–62 and then as a professor in GSPH's Department of Environmental and Occupational Health from 1962–82. In 1965, he was awarded a contract from the Atomic Energy Commission to conduct a 500,000 participant study of the health effects of radiation among workers employed in the nation's nuclear weapons complex. Dr. Mancuso was responsible for conducting the first cohort mortality studies on occupational cohorts in the United States and the first to use the Social Security Administration to trace workers, pioneering the cohort follow-up study. As medical consultant

to the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Dr. Mancuso answered machinists' questions regarding toxic exposures and published his responses in the form of a book, *Help for the Working Wounded*, in 1976. He is survived by his wife, son, two daughters, and a grandson.

Ms. Patricia A. Murray (MHPE '03), 51, of Laurel Gardens, Pa., died on April 23, 2004. Ms. Murray worked on a number of research projects at the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Philosophy of Science. She is survived by her parents and three siblings.

Theodore Rubin (PhD '55) died January 4, 2004, in Ventura, Calif. A retired defense and aerospace statistician, Dr. Rubin taught biostatistics at the University of California at Los Angeles, University of La Verne, and California State University at Northridge. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, three children, and four grandchildren.

Dr. Cecil G. Sheps, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, died on February 8, 2004, at age 90. Dr. Sheps served as a professor of public health and head of the graduate program in medical care administration at GSPH in the early 1960s. He is best known for his pioneering work in health policy advocacy. Dr. Sheps began his career at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) in 1947, where he held a variety of positions including vice chancellor for health affairs, professor of health planning, and director of program planning in the division of health affairs. He was also the founding director of UNC's Health Services Research Center, which was renamed the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research in 1991. He is survived by his son Samuel, brother Sheldon, sister Lucille Ellison, and two grandchildren.

Dr. Evelyn Han-Li Wei (PhD '99), 33, died January 23, 2004, after being struck by an automobile while walking near her home in the Regent Square neighborhood of Pittsburgh. Dr. Wei earned a BS in psychology from Pitt in 1993 and a PhD in psychiatric epidemiology at GSPH in 1999.



Her doctoral thesis—a study of predictors of teenage fatherhood—was selected for discussion at a student workshop by the Society for Epidemiologic Research in 1996. Since 2002, Dr. Wei had served as senior research principal at the Pittsburgh Youth Study, part of UPMC's Life History Studies Program at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic. She had worked with the program for more than 10 years, lending her efforts to projects focused on neighborhood violence, child development, substance use and violence, and demographic factors in juvenile delinquency, among others. Dr. Wei's mother, Yuling L. Wei, is a senior research associate in the Department of Epidemiology and has been with GSPH since 1985. Dr. Wei is also survived by her husband, father, and grandmother, as well as many in-laws, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

The family requests that contributions be made to the University of Pittsburgh Evelyn H. Wei Memorial Fund at the University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health c/o Daphne Mayer, A661 Crabtree Hall, 130 DeSoto Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261. Gifts to this fund will support epidemiology students' travel to conferences and meetings.

Alumna Receives Fulbright Fellowship

GSPH alumna and Pittsburgh native **Heba Ali** (MHA '04) will travel to Egypt to conduct research on health policy during the 2004–05 academic year as a newly awarded Fulbright fellow. The U.S. Student Fulbright Grant will allow Ali to analyze and assess the policy formulation process of the Healthy Egyptians 2010 initiative, a collaboration between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Egypt's Ministry of Health and Population aimed at promoting health policy in Egypt. Ali's research will focus on the control and prevention of unintentional injuries such as pedestrian and traffic injuries. Ali is one of only seven students from across the United States selected for research projects in Egypt as part of this program.

Ali takes with her the experience she gained during the past two years. She worked as a research assistant to Thomas Songer,

assistant professor of epidemiology, in the Center for Injury Research and Control and as an intern with George Board (DrPH '83), senior vice president of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's Division of Community Health Services.

Ali is a 1995 graduate of Schenley High School and is a resident of South Oakland. In 2000, she received her bachelor's degree from the University of Central Florida.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and offers opportunities for recent graduates, postgraduate degree candidates, and developing professionals and artists to conduct career-launching study and research abroad. The Fulbright program currently operates in more than 140 countries and awards approximately 1,000 grants annually to American students.

GSPH Top State School in NIH Funding for Third Year

For the third consecutive year, GSPH ranks third among the nation's 47 programs of public health in National Institutes of Health (NIH) research grant funding, again making it the leading state-related school of public health. Harvard and Johns Hopkins Universities, both private institutions, ranked first and second respectively. GSPH received \$44.9 million in research grants from NIH in 2003. In addition, GSPH moved up to third from fourth in total grants, which include training grants, fellowships, research and development contracts, and other awards. These totaled \$47.2 million for GSPH.

"We are once again quite proud of these rankings," said Bernard D. Goldstein, dean of GSPH. "During the past four years, the Graduate School of Public Health has increased its NIH research funding by about 45 percent, while almost doubling its total external funding.

"These rankings demonstrate the dedication of our investigators to keeping GSPH at the forefront of public health research and doing what they can to better the health of people all over the globe," he added.

Mark Your Calendar!

January 12–14, 2005

**Center for Minority Health
5th Annual National Minority
Health Leadership Summit**
IBEW Conference Center
5 Hot Metal Street, Pittsburgh

January 14, 2005

**GSPH Open House
for Prospective Students**
GSPH, 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Contact: Diane Kline,
Student Affairs, 412-624-5200,
dkline@gsphdean.gsp.h.pitt.edu

Pittsburgh Bioterrorism Lecture Series

January 18, 2005

“Public Health: Drafted
to Protect America?”
Elin Gursky, Principle Deputy
for Biodefense, National Strategies
Support Directorate, ANSER
University of Pittsburgh School of
Medicine, Room 6, Scaife Hall, 4–6 p.m.

January 25, 2005

“Biosecurity in the 21st Century”
Monica Sochoch-Spana, Senior Fellow,
UPMC Center for Biosecurity
University of Pittsburgh School of
Medicine, Room 6, Scaife Hall, 4–6 p.m.
Contact: Stefanie Fiddner,
412-383-2400, fiddners@edc.pitt.edu
For more information, visit
www.cphp.pitt.edu/upcphp.

March 31, 2005

**Parran Lecture/50th Anniversary
of Groundbreaking of Parran Hall**
Noreen Clark, Dean, University
of Michigan School of Public Health
GSPH, G23 Parran Hall, 3 p.m.

April 4–10, 2005

National Public Health Week

April 19, 2005

**Jay L. Foster Memorial Lecture
in Alzheimer’s Disease**
William Klunk, Associate Professor
of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh
School of Medicine, and Associate
Director, University of Pittsburgh
Alzheimer Disease Research Center

Community lecture: “Alzheimer’s Disease
and Pittsburgh Compound-B: Progress
in Diagnosis and Drug Discovery”
IBEW Conference Center
5 Hot Metal Street, Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.

Scientific lecture: “From the Outside
Looking In: Imaging Amyloid
in Alzheimer’s Disease”
GSPH, A115 Crabtree Hall, 4:30 p.m.
Contact: Kristine Cecchetti 412-624-1294,
kcecchetti@gsphdean.gsp.h.pitt.edu

April 30, 2005

GSPH Convocation
IBEW Conference Center
5 Hot Metal Street, Pittsburgh
Contact: Diane Kline,
Student Affairs, 412-624-5200,
dkline@gsphdean.gsp.h.pitt.edu

Alumni Dinner

Pittsburgh Athletic Association



University of Pittsburgh

Graduate School of Public Health

A624 Crabtree Hall

130 DeSoto Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15261

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